Daily Report

Latin America

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International

Santiago radio reports that Chilean President Aylwin opened the Rio Group, EC foreign ministers' meeting 28 May. In his address he stated, "The persistent protectionist attitude of developed countries...is a negative factor" and results in "a great paradox" in which "industrialized countries...which defend and promote free trade, resort to protectionist measures that hinder the growth of developed countries."

EFE reports four cooperation agreements were signed which the European Investment Bank will finance. The bank is to "disburse 250 million European currency units per year, which will represent $1 billion in credit over the next three years, for investment projects of common interest in Latin America."

Inter-American

Managua radio reports that Central American foreign ministers have been arriving in Managua to prepare for the upcoming presidential summit. Panamanian Foreign Minister Linares said, "The importance of this summit lies in the fact that we are going to assess what has been done and what has not been done so we can do it." It is important "to get things moving again and to prevent the presidents' statements from ending up as simple statements with no practical content." New issues will not be discussed. Guatemalan Deputy Foreign Minister Rodas Melgar believes the summit "will be very important because the presidents will have the opportunity to review all the agreements they have signed during the previous summit meetings."

Brazil

Interpol is conducting an investigation into the presence of alleged members of the "al-Fatah Revolutionary Council" organization, headed by Palestinian Abu Nidal, "who apparently are preparing an attack to be carried out during the Earth Summit that will be inaugurated in Rio de Janeiro," reports Madrid EFE. The police do not rule out the possibility of an attack in Rio during the summit as there will be more than 100 heads of state in the city, the report adds.

Venezuela

Caracas TV carries a news conference held by President Perez with foreign reporters in which he explains the current condition of the country. In answer to a question concerning the continuing protests in the country Perez says "there is no possibility of a civil war or a coup d'etat." He states that the protests are not staged by irritated workers, but rather by small groups that only wish to damage the national patrimony. On the economic front Perez says that "Foreign capital knows that Venezuela is a safe place to invest." He points out the foreign oil companies' interest in exploiting the country's oil deposits, "That means we will have foreign capital working to guarantee Venezuela's oil future." Perez ends the news conference by summarizing the governments' plans to combat the economic crisis.

Peru

After APRA leaders denounce government harassment and advise Alan Garcia to "abandon the country for his own safety," Lima TV reports, Garcia requests and is granted political asylum at the Colombian Embassy, Santa Fe de Bogota TV reports.

Lima radio broadcasts a news conference given by Uruguayan Foreign Minister Hector Gros Espiell and OAS Secretary General Joao Baena Soares after they met with the government and political opposition. Gros says that the OAS is promoting dialogue among the government authorities of the country and all political sectors. It is a necessary part of the process to restore constitutionality and democracy and the guarantees for all political leaders to allow them to act without "any fear for their safety."

Rio Group, EC Foreign Ministers Meet in Chile

Aylwin Addresses Meeting

PY2905194292 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 28 May 92

[Text] President Aylwin has urged European countries to end protectionism, which largely affects Latin American countries. Aylwin opened a joint meeting of Rio Group and EEC foreign ministers. He pointed out the positive aspects of relations between the two continents, and added:

[Begin recording] There are discrepancies between the two regions in this matter. The persistent protectionist attitude of developed countries that was reflected in the Uruguay Round talks is a negative factor. We are facing a great paradox. On one hand, Latin America is assuming a high social cost and increasingly promoting its international trade. On the other hand, the fact is that industrialized countries, including those of the EEC, which defend and promote free trade, resort to protectionist measures that hinder the growth of developed countries.

I know that I faithfully represent the will of the Rio Group member countries and I urge them to make a serious effort to decisively move forward in trying to solve our commercial problems at a time when the modern world seeks to support developed countries in their effort to defeat poverty. We trust that the EEC, an organization historically sensible to this scourge, will be ready to provide its assistance to overcome it. [end recording]

Argentine Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella and EEC representative Abel Matutes also addressed the meeting.

Cooperation Accords Signed

PY3005195492 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2012 GMT 29 May 92

[Text] Santiago, 29 May (EFE)—Rio Group and EC foreign ministers signed in Santiago today four agreements on cooperation in Latin America, which will be financed through European Investment Bank [BEI] credit over the next three years.

At the end of the second meeting of Rio Group and EC foreign ministers, which was held in Santiago, the ministers also reported that they decided to create a commission of experts—who will meet this year—to seek solutions to the problems created by the different trade policies adopted by Latin American and European countries.

The BEI will disburse 250 million ECU's [European currency units] per year, which will represent $1 billion in credit over the next three years, for investment projects of common interest in Latin America.

The BEI operations "will be decided on a case-by-case basis" according to the Santiago declaration in its chapter on "economic matters," which also includes the intent "to submit, in the near future," investment projects "for regional integration."

One of the agreements signed today states that a training center for Latin American experts on regional integration will be financed by the EC and created within the Latin American Integration Association (ALADI), which is headquartered in Montevideo.

Argentina, Colombia, Chile, Uruguay, and Venezuela will have offices to obtain the transfer of advanced European technology from the EC through an agreement that includes enlargement of the EC Technological Information Pilot System (TIPS) for Latin America.

Through offices that will be established in Chile, Brazil, Colombia, and Mexico, the EC will train businessmen who own small- and medium-sized Latin American companies in reconversion and expansion of their industries within the regional economic integration programs.

Chile will be responsible for general coordination of the program; Brazil will be responsible for members of the Common Market of the South (Mercosur), which includes Argentina, Paraguay, and Uruguay; and Colombia will be responsible for the other members of the Andean Pact, which includes Ecuador, Peru, and Venezuela [as received].

According to another agreement, Argentina and Venezuela will have offices for training Latin American officials on reform and modernization of the state, especially in the area of public services. Argentina will train officials of Mercosur and Chile, and Venezuela will train those of the Andean Pact and Mexico.

The Rio Group and EC ministers expressed their "satisfaction" with "the positive trend" of European investments in Latin America.

They also promised to support all measures for leading the negotiations of the Uruguay Round of GATT—such as the negotiations on reducing subsidies for agricultural products, which are at a standstill—to a successful conclusion. In this regard, they ratified "their political will to conclude the negotiations as soon as possible" and called on GATT members to make "the greatest effort to reach a balanced agreement in everyone's interest."

The experts who met this year to solve commercial differences studied EC obstructions to the export of bananas from Latin America and the possibility of enlarging the EC's Generalized System of Preferences for Latin America.

The Santiago meeting was attended by the foreign ministers of Argentina, Belgium, Bolivia, Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, Spain, Ireland, Jamaica, Paraguay, Portugal, and Uruguay.

The meeting was also attended by the deputy ministers or secretaries of state of Germany, Brazil, Denmark, France, Greece, the Netherlands, Honduras, Italy, Luxembourg, Mexico, Great Britain, and Venezuela.

Argentina was the Rio Group spokesman because it heads the secretariat of that organization this year, and Portugal was the EC spokesman because it heads the EC presidency for the first half of this year.

Guatemalan Dialogue Supported

PY3005031192 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1904 GMT 29 May 92

[Excerpt] Santiago, 29 May (EFE)—Rio Group and EC foreign ministers today pointed out the importance of organizing a dialogue between the Guatemalan Government and guerrillas to find a peaceful solution to Guatemala's internal conflict.

The Rio Group and EC ministers expressed in Santiago their "approval" of Guatemalan President Jorge Serrano's decision to recognize the former British colony Belize as an independent and sovereign state and "to establish diplomatic relations."

This decision is contained in the "political" declaration signed by the Latin American and European foreign ministers at the end of the Second Meeting of Rio Group and EC Foreign Ministers.

The Santiago declaration ratifies the Latin American and European ministers' commitment to defend human rights and democracy, and especially mentions the Haitian, Peruvian, and Cuban situations. [passage omitted]

Relations Begin 'New Stage'

PY3005202292 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2038 GMT 29 May 92

[By Matilde Wolter]

[Text] Santiago, 29 May (EFE)—The EC and Rio Group foreign ministers today agreed in stating that relations between the two blocs are beginning a new stage now that old commercial disagreements have been overcome.

This was said in a news conference at the conclusion of 48 hours of deliberations between the foreign ministers and representatives of the 22 countries that participated in the second meeting between the EC and the Rio Group in Santiago, and who approved a 15-page document by consensus.

Chilean Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma, who hosted the meeting, said: "The meeting was extremely fruitful." This opinion was shared by his Uruguayan counterpart Hector Gros Espiell. The Uruguayan foreign minister told EFE that this "has been a better, more effective conference, with a franker, more constructive, and more concrete dialogue" between the EC and the Rio Group.

According to Portuguese Foreign Minister Joao de Deus Pinheiro, whose country is presiding over the EC this semester, the meeting in Santiago "marks a new stage" in current relations, and he added that there was no rhetoric in that meeting, but a high degree of identification and solidarity prevailed.

"We are prepared for a new style of relations," said Pinheiro, who paid public homage to Spanish Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez-Ordonez "for having been essential in consolidating this path."

Summarizing the agreements, the Chilean foreign minister said that there was absolute agreement on the defense of democracy and human rights, and he added that the Rio Group has received, "with special interest," the official EC announcement on reform of the Common Agrarian Policy (PAC).

On this matter, EC Commissioner for Latin America Abel Matutes, of Spain, said that at the meeting, important progress was achieved within the economic plan in line with the agreement existing between Europe and Latin America in the political and cultural fields.

Matutes stressed the opening of credits by the European Investment Bank and explained that the reforms of the PAC mark a new stage of relations.

The European commissioner reasserted that the EC "is not protectionist" and explained that EC countries are first world importers of agricultural products, much more than the total U.S. and Japanese imports together. He said that there is a $10 billion deficit in the trade balance between the EC and Latin America because the Europeans export products worth $20 billion to the region and import products worth $30 billion from the region.

Silva Cimma and his Argentine counterpart Guido Di Tella strengthened Matutes' remarks by stating that Latin America watches, with great expectations, the reforms in its agricultural policy announced by the EC, which are expected, in practice, to reflect the end of protectionism.

These reforms, in general terms, imply cutting subsidies to community agricultural producers and a reduction of tariffs on grain by 29 percent and on meat by 15 percent.

Di Tella also expressed the ministers' concern in making known that poverty, drug trafficking, and corruption are elements that destabilize democracy.

The issue of trade was the main subject of discussions during the two days of debate among the ministers, under secretaries, and top-level officials who attended the meeting in Santiago, which officially concluded with a joint news conference granted by Matututes, Pinheiro, Silva Cimma, Di Tella, and Colombian Foreign Minister Nohemi Sanin.

Ecuadoran Minister Comments

PY3005224492 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2148 GMT 29 May 92

[Text] Santiago, 29 May (EFE)—Ecuadoran Foreign Minister Diego Cordovez said today that he is "very

satisfied" with the talks held with the EC representative on the case of banana exports from Latin America to that market, where new restrictions were announced.

Cordovez told EFE: "The EC representative gave us assurances that left us encouraged, very happy, and very pleased. We believe this issue can continue to be negotiated. What was needed was openness, dialogue, and information."

Cordovez, who was the spokesman for banana producers, conveyed to European officials the producers' concern over the announcement made by the EC to establish restrictive quotas for importing bananas and for increasing tariffs 20 percent.

Cordovez said: "What we are concerned about is the quota; we really are concerned about the existence of a restrictive process." He stated that Latin American producers want to continue and, if possible, to enlarge their exports to the EC.

He added: "We want our products to reach the EC. We want the treatment given to banana exports as of 1 January not to be inferior to the current treatment; we want it, if possible, to be better."

Cordovez said the EC is concerned about safeguarding the interests of the countries with which Europe has historic obligations. He asserted that Latin America does not compete with the EC members and has no desire to hurt their production.

Cordovez reiterated that the new EC standards planned for bananas are "arbitrary" because the percentage used was from two to three years ago, "which does not even correspond to current exports or trends in fruit exports."

He said: "I was given assurances that all aspects of this process will be reconsidered and revalued in order to reach an agreement based on reflection and dialogue." He pointed out that the debate in Santiago in this context was "very positive and satisfactory."

Spanish Abel Matutes, the EC representative for Latin America, told EFE that the EC has not yet made a definite decision on the banana problem, that only ideas were given.

Matutes explained that during the discussion on this issue in the EC-Rio Group meeting it was made clear to Latin American representatives that the traditionally exported amount of bananas by the region "was assured" and that this issue was, therefore, "resolved."

It was learned that a heated debate on bananas and the restrictions was held among the ministers, and that Germany fully supported the Ecuadoran position, but The Netherlands admitted problems on this issue.

Uruguayan Official 'Optimistic'

PY0106003492 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2231 GMT 29 May 92

[Text] Santiago, 29 May (EFE)—Uruguayan Foreign Minister Hector Gros Espiell said today in Santiago, Chile, that he was "moderately optimistic" about the future of the Uruguay Round of GATT.

In a statement to EFE, Gros Espiell, president of the Uruguay Round, said that the future reform of the Common Agrarian Policy (PAC) announced by the EC is positive and "has allowed the resumption of negotiations." The Uruguayan minister said: "I hope this reform is the basis for a reactivation of the process that will allow us to conclude the round before the end of the year."

Gros Espiell participated in the second formal EC-Rio Group meeting in Santiago, which lasted 48 hours and ended today. During the meeting, the Uruguayan minister said that the European agrarian reform was a "great contribution" to the GATT negotiations and that "it is up to others to make the next move," referring primarily to the United States.

Commerce was the main subject discussed by the Latin American representatives, who demanded that their European partners implement less protectionist measures and allow regional products more access to their markets.

Assessing the meeting, Gros Espiell, who has attended all the EC-Rio Group official meetings since 1990, said it had been "very positive." Gros Espiell added: "I think it has been the best, most profound, frank, constructive, and concrete meeting."

Gros Espiell is leaving for Peru tonight as a member of an OAS mission headed by OAS Secretary General Joao Baena Soares. The trip is being carried out in compliance with a resolution recently voted on during an "ad hoc" meeting of OAS foreign ministers, which seeks "to promote the final phase of an effort to engage the Peruvian Government and political parties in a dialogue," according to the Uruguayan minister.

Gros Espiell explained that what is sought is "restoration of the constitutional and democratic process" and "an immediate call for elections to form a democratic constituent congress in Peru."

Foreign Ministers Arrive in Managua for Meeting

PA3005041292 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 29 May 92

[Text] The foreign ministers of the Central American countries began arriving early on the afternoon of 28 May, to participate in a regional meeting of foreign ministers. Upon his arrival, Panamanian Foreign Minister Julio Linares said that the most important issue at this summit will be to evaluate what has been done until now.

[Begin recording] [Linares] I believe this summit meeting is very important because it means a pause along the way. Since the first summits, the presidents have been taking initiatives, many of which have been completed, while others have not. The importance of this summit lies in the fact that we are going to assess what has been done and what has not been done so we can do it. The importance of this summit is to get things moving again and to prevent the presidents' statements from ending up as simple statements with no practical content, so that the ideas are implemented.

[Unidentified reporter] Is there an agenda or a specific opinion that the Panamanian Government would like to discuss?

[Linares] No, because this will be an evaluation summit. We will not be introducing new issues. You must remember that the six Central American states, despite being so similar, do have different individual interests; our own economic interests, for one. Panama's economic system, for example, is not the same as Nicaragua's. We must also take into account that there are sectors within each country that do not favor the integration movement. If we start out too optimistically, believing that this is a short race, then we may become frustrated. I would say we should move slowly, taking firm and secure steps.

[Reporter] In what area do you believe Central American integration will be reached first: the economic, political or social area?

[Linares] I believe the social area has the greatest possibilities because our needs and those of the Central American countries are quite similar. The problems that extreme poverty-stricken sectors must face are basically the same. We must take one thing into account. Now that you have asked me about this, I would like to take advantage of this opportunity to make one thing clear. Many times we speak of developing our economy. I believe we must develop it and bolster it. There are, however, sectors that are extremely poor and whose problems will not be solved by a developed economy, unless there is direct action by the state. I wish to stress this point because there are those who believe that a well-developed economy is enough to do away with extreme poverty. This is not true. If there is no direct action by the state, these poor sectors will continue to exist. [end recording]

Guatemalan Deputy Foreign Minister Roger Haroldo Rodas Melgar agreed with Panamanian Foreign Minister Julio Linares. He said that evaluating actions taken during previous summits is the main issue on the agenda of the presidents's meeting that will begin on 4 June in our country.

[Begin recording] [Rodas] I believe this summit meeting in Managua will be very important because the presidents will have the opportunity to review all the agreements they have signed during the previous summit meetings—agreements on political cooperation and economic and social integration—as well as regional positions on international relations. How the presidents plan to handle the Rio de Janeiro summit on development and the environment, to be held in the coming weeks, will be of great significance. This issue is very important to the Central American region because the region gains strength as a region of freedom, development, and democracy.

Another issue they will address pertains to the recent problems in the coffee and banana markets. As you well know, three Central American presidents—President Endara of Panama, President Callejas of Honduras, and President Calderon of Costa Rica—traveled to Europe to present the position of the Central American banana exporting countries and to attempt to eliminate any type of quota system for importing bananas into Europe.

Another issue to be discussed during this presidential summit is the political situation of the American hemisphere, particularly the results of the most recent OAS general assembly, and especially the cases of Peru and Haiti.

[Unidentified reporter] As the summit meetings have progressed, it has seemed that regional integration is not the main goal. There are three basic areas involved in integration: social, economic, and political. In which of these areas do you believe we will see integration first?

[Rodas] I believe that the three are progressing together. We are witnessing a restructuring of the international forces and the disappearance of the east-west conflict. There remains, however, an unsolved problem between north and south. It is within this context that the EC is moving toward its unified market in 1993, with an ever faster political, economic, and technological integration process. The United States has launched its Enterprise for the Americas with Canada and Mexico and a free trade zone. Japan has done the same with Southeast Asia.

In light of this restructuring of economic, political, and financial forces, the Central American region is consolidating, so as to participate as a region, as a bloc. I believe this is the importance of the presidents' efforts at these previous summit meetings. Then there is the issue of social integration, which is also very important. During the initial stages of the integration process, greater attention was given to economic matters. Now we wish to give

social issues the importance they deserve. This is why the main point at the meeting in Tegucigalpa was social development.

On the political side, as you know, we are gradually designing a Central American institutional system in which the presidential summits will be the highest authority, along with the Central American Parliament. In the future, these two groups may come together as the legal entity of integration and constitute the system's foundation for political, social, economic, and cultural integration. [end recording]

Honduran Foreign Minister Mario Carias Zapata arrived in Nicaragua by land, crossing the Guasaule check point on the afternoon of 28 May. The foreign ministers of Guatemala, El Salvador, and Costa Rica are expected to arrive during the morning of 29 May.

Legislators Reactivate ODECA, Defend Interests

PA3105221392 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2008 GMT 30 May 92

[Text] Guatemala City, 30 May (NOTIMEX)—Central American legislators here agreed to reactivate the Organization of Central American States (ODECA), to unify positions on the fight against drug trafficking, and to form a regional defense block.

Upon closing the discussions on 29 May, the Central American Integration summit agreed to negotiate foreign debt as a group. The meetings brought together deputies from the region's congresses and assemblies for two days in Guatemala.

Summit Secretary Edmundo Castillo, of Nicaragua, said that it was agreed to defend Central American interests as a bloc, particularly those pertaining to security, drug trafficking, and agricultural trade.

The lawmakers discussed the issues of banana exports, coffee, trade, passports, freedom of movement, ODECA protocol, and security along the countries' highways.

Castillo stated the Central American legislators discussed problems affecting the area and means of solving them, and examined the integration process.

The lawmakers reached a high level of understanding about the need to unify certain laws, such as the Unified Central American Customs Code (CAUCA).

As the fight against drug trafficking is an international problem, they agreed to unify positions on how to combat, punish, and make justice more expeditious and effective in punishing the drug cartels.

The secretary told NOTIMEX that a consensus was reached for Central America to present a joint proposal at the environmental summit in Rio de Janeiro urging pardoning of the region's foreign debt.

It was agreed the Central American parliament would present the region's proposal at the Rio summit.

Cuba

Castro Hints of 'Another Political Direction'

PA0106021792 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2213 GMT 30 May 92

[Text] Mexico City, 30 May (NOTIMEX)—Cuba could consider another political course if the U.S. threats and economic embargo against the island ended, Cuban President Fidel Castro, 65, stated on 30 May.

The Cuban president said what exists in his country is the struggle between the nation (the Cuban people) and imperialism. "The people are either with the revolution or against it. Nobody is uncommitted," he stated.

"Our democracy is not perfect. Despite going through difficult times, we are, however, making a big effort to better our political system and will take steps in that direction," he told the Mexican newspaper EXCELSIOR.

"Let the economic embargo against our country end, let the U.S. threats end, let the campaigns and war against Cuba end, and we could consider in the theoretical field, and even in the practical field, another political direction for our nation," he noted.

Interviewed by former Nicaraguan Interior Minister Tomas Borge, the Cuban president defined democracy as the government of, by, and for the people, according to Abraham Lincoln's definition.

Castro noted democracy entails defending the rights of all citizens and brotherhood among men.

"I think our system is without comparison more democratic than any other, even the U.S. system," he added.

He felt democracy can only exist within socialism, and "communism will be the supreme form of democracy, but we have not reached that yet."

Fidel Castro took power following the triumph of the Cuban Revolution in 1959, and likes to read the works by Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra and the poems by Chilean Pablo Neruda.

The head of state noted the possibility of a U.S. military intervention in Cuba still exists, which is why the strengthening of defense is one of the priority programs within the special period.

"The United States is not going to renounce its dream of eradicating the (Cuban) Revolution, but it has two paths: either the path of hostility, aggression, or the path of peace and influence on Cuba's political life through other means," he noted.

"Perhaps we are better prepared to face a campaign of aggression than a policy of peace, and yet we are not afraid of the latter. Out of principle, we would not be opposed to a policy of peaceful coexistence between the United States and Cuba."

Castro said that if a universal agreement was reached, Cuba would subscribe to the measure.

His government, however, cannot unilaterally agree to suppress the use of the death penalty, "considering we are facing the United States and constantly threatened, immersed in a struggle for survival, in a matter of life or death," Castro said.

"Were we to show clemency with those that come to Cuba with terrorist intentions, it would encourage this sort of venture, and within a few months, we would not just have one incursion but 10 with individuals who would come to kill to receive medals," he indicated.

The Cuban president supported the idea that heads of state should retire at age 60. "The problem is not just to retire but to be able to retire, which are two different things," he added.

"I would like others to do my task. I do not perform my tasks to satisfy personal wishes, but as a duty. For that reason, I am aware my work is useful, and so long as it remains that way, I have to devote it to the revolution," Fidel Castro remarked.

The Cuban president reiterated that as long as his comrades deem he is necessary in battle, he will stand "by the cannon," not satisfying a personal ambition, but fulfilling a duty.

Fidel Castro Visits National Earthquake Center

FL2905185492 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 29 May 92

[Report by Carlos Sanavia]

[Text] Just moments ago, our Commander in Chief Fidel Castro visited the National Seismologic Research Center here in Santiago de Cuba. He is interested in the seismic situation in the southeastern part of the country because of the event on 25 May at 1356 [as heard].

Fidel was accompanied by Esteban Lazo Hernandez, a politburo member and first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba for the province; Maria de los Angeles Garcia, also a politburo member; Reynaldo Endis, president of the Provincial Assembly of the People's Government; and other leaders.

At the National Seismologic Center here in Santiago de Cuba, Fidel was thoroughly briefed by Comrade (Osvaldo Beleagua), the director of the Academy of Sciences in Santiago de Cuba, and Comrade Tomas Sierra... [pauses] Luis Sierra, the director of the center, on the seismologic situation in this southeastern part of the country, which as you know has three fundamental seismologic points: Guantanamo, Santiago de Cuba, and Cabo Cruz in Pilon Municipality in Granma Province.

Inspects Damage in Granma

FL3005144092 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 30 May 92

[Report by correspondent Martin Corona Jerez from Bayamo]

[Text] On 29 May in Granma Province, Commander in Chief Fidel Castro was given detailed information on the consequences of the 25 May earthquake, which affected Granma Province most of all. Fidel arrived in Bayamo in the afternoon, and Alfredo Enriquez Pina, the first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] for Granma Province, explained to him the efforts being made to repair the damages that were caused, as well as the effects of the earthquake in general. Enriquez Pina explained that 50 people had been injured in Granma Province, but none to the point where his condition is life-threatening; and that 842 housing units had been damaged, of which 89 have been declared uninhabitable.

Commander in Chief Fidel Castro said Granma was the province that suffered the most damage from Monday's earthquake, but that fortunately the damages have not been great. The first secretary of the PCC asked about the amounts of materials necessary to repair the damages caused by the earthquake. He also said it was necessary to make the population aware of the dangers that can arise from building housing that does not meet the specifications that have been established.

On the evening of 29 May, Castro, who is the president of the Councils of State and Ministers, visited the new Comandante (Felix Lubones) Hospital in the town of Pilon. Despite the fact that the building had suffered a certain amount of damage, Fidel expressed satisfaction at seeing that the center has proven the effectiveness of anti-earthquake construction techniques. Also that night, Fidel visited the party offices in the Granma Province municipalities of Niquero and Media Luna, where he received detailed information about the 25 May earthquake and the measures taken in response to it.

Cited on Preparedness

FL3005132292 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 29 May 92

[Report by Carlos Sanavia on the "Exclusive" program]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Could another high magnitude earthquake hit the eastern region? This was the question reporters posed to our commander in chief at the end of his visit to the National Seismologic Research Center.

[Begin Castro recording] Strategically, that danger is always present because they occur every so often, every so many years, the more intense ones, right? They have studied the historical cycles and more or less know if they are within the range of a historical cycle. So there is always... [pauses] Is there any immediate danger? This is what has to be analyzed. They have not totally ruled it out.

The original tally of the 1932 earthquake was 13 victims, but they have researched it further and have arrived at the probable figure of 27 deaths. Of course, the city was much smaller then. They also contend that the public buildings have been built following guidelines for protection and prevention, keeping in mind the possibility of earthquakes. Many private construction projects are not so resistant; that is where the main problem lies.

I believe that in this regard, the important thing is to have an educated population, a population that is aware of what to do when an earthquake takes place. This is not like a hurricane, which you can forecast. They tell me that in some countries they have achieved a few seconds of warning. They said that in 1932, a so-called perceptible earthquake first took place. This is what warned the people, who managed to seek protection and later, when the stronger one hit, they were already out of danger. I believe that the people should know all this information and be knowledgeable about what to do in such cases.

I think it is only prudent that if there is a somewhat strong tremor, measures should be taken. This could be for 2, 3, or 4 minutes. There is nothing else we can do. Despite all the new construction that is taking place, the old buildings are still there. We still have all the buildings from the past century. We are not going to tear down the cathedral to build a new one. There are a lot of buildings which were built [words indistinct] these buildings were not built following these guidelines. All the prefabrication plants and all the designs were made keeping the earthquakes in mind, even for the tall buildings. How many floors? [Unidentified speakers answer: Eighteen.] All those were built keeping in mind the earthquakes. However, even so the residents should know what to do in case there is any danger. Everyone, in relation to his area of residence, must know what should be done. I have been told that many people come out on their balconies, and that is dangerous. The people should know this. What can we do with people who are on the fourth floor? Is it better for them to wait there, (?because they would come to more harm trying to get downstairs?) I think that the people [words indistinct] earthquakes in Bayamo, Santiago, and also Guantanamo. They should be educated in what to do, to reduce the number of victims. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Havana To Present 'Experiences' at Rio Summit

FL3005162092 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 30 May 92

[Text] Cuba will present its experiences in the fields of environmental safety and public health development programs in Brazil. During an international meeting which began today in Rio de Janeiro as part of the activities of Eco 92, Cuban pediatrician Carlos Dotres stated that Cuba's work to eliminate pollution in cities and industrial centers will be discussed. Dotres also indicated that he will present a summary of Cuba's work in treating about 10,000 children from the former USSR

who were affected by the Chernobyl accident. The symposium, which was opened by Brazilian President Fernando Collor de Melo, will last until 6 June.

Bombing Probe Supports U.S. Complicity Claim

FL3105214392 Bridgetown CANA in English 2114 GMT 31 May 92

[By Rickey Singh]

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, May 31, CANA—Cuba has cited a probe by Barbados into the Cubana aircraft tragedy 16 years ago to support its claim of official United States complicity in the worst act of terrorism carried out in the English-speaking Caribbean. This latest development on the terrorist bombing of "Cubana flight 455" on October 6, 1976 off Barbados, that killed all 73 people aboard, came as the UN Security Council awaits documents from Venezuela in relation to the trial of two Cuban exiles connected with the tragedy. Eleven Guyanese were among those who died in the explosion.

According to the findings of a commission of inquiry set up by Barbados, "a global assessment of the evidence" received provides the basis for linking the two then suspected terrorists and their visit to the United States Embassy in Bridgetown.

Last April Cuba called on the UN Security Council to act on the basis of its own "748 resolution" against Libya to get the United States to extradite for trial in Havana two Cuban exiles wanted for the blowing up of Cubana flight 455. The exiles are Orlando Bosch and his colleague, Luis Posada. Bosch is said to have been the "mastermind" in a series of anti-Cuba terrorist activities in the 1970's.

Both men were subsequently found guilty by a Venezuelan court of placing the explosives which destroyed the Cuban jet shortly after it had taken off at Grantley Adams international airport. Bosch and Posada have been enjoying sanctuary in the United States. In his letter to the president of the UN Security Council, the Cuban ambassador quoted from the report of the Barbados investigative commission:

"The meetings of the commission," he said, "were attended by an official delegation of the government of the United States, headed by a person referred to in the report as 'Mr. Willis.'" Alarcon said that the interest of the U.S to "participate in the activities of this commission contradicts its alleged unrelatedness to the events that were being investigated."

Citing the testimony given before the commission by two Barbadian citizens, the Cuban diplomat said that the first thing done by Lozano and Lugo after "this abominable crime" was to head towards the U.S. Embassy in Bridgetown.

"This testimony was presented and sustained in an official and public meeting in front of representatives of the government of Washington who were unable to refute it," said Alarcon. A relevant extract of the commission's report cited by Cuba to reinforce its demand for action by the UN Security Council for the United States to hand over Cuban exiles Bosch and Posada to face trial in Havana, states:

"In our view, a global assessment of the evidence provides some basis for the assertion that Lozano and Lugo visited the Embassy of the United States on October 6. No evidence was made to present evidence to the contrary, and no explanations on that visit was offered...." The two men had gone to the embassy to meet with a "Mr. McLeod" whose identity was not established, according to evidence led by then chief superintendent and current police commissioner, Orville Durant. But in the words of the commission, "Mr. Willis" (the U.S. representative) referred to this "mysterious Mr. McLeod" as if he were as ethereal as implied in his name.

"We would only make the observation," added the commission, "that if any concealed transaction was being made it would not be surprising that a false name would have been used." Cuba, said Alarcon, was anxious for the UN Security Council to take decisive action in keeping with its 748 resolution that called on Libya to hand over two its citizens to face trial in the USA in connection with the terrorist bombing of Pan Am jet 103 in 1988 that killed 259 people.

On May 5, a meeting of the UN Security Council postponed discussion of Cuba's request, pending the submission by Venezuela of all relevant documents dealing with the court trials and investigations by its security forces, in connection with the bombing of the Cubana passenger aircraft.

Mexican Reporters Leave Due to Expired Permits

PA3105220492 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 31 May 92

[Text] A spokesman for the Cuban Center of International Press of Havana reported on 30 May that the correspondents from ECO, a private Mexican television system, left Cuba on 22 May because their temporary three-month work permits had expired.

When asked by the press about the announcement made in Mexico by ECO that their office in Cuba had closed, the spokesman said ECO was not permanently accredited in Cuba.

Russian Scholars Favor Closer Ties With Havana

FL3005131492 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 29 May 92

[Text] Today in Moscow, outstanding Russian scholars on Latin America declared themselves in favor of maintaining and developing relations with Cuba on the basis of mutual advantages. Approximately 10 scholars of the Latin American situation set forth their opinions at a

conference entitled: Russia-Cuba: Prospects for Relations Under the New Conditions.

In the opinion of (Alexey Hermakov), head of the Latin American Directorate of the Russian Foreign Ministry, the ties between Moscow and Havana should improve in all spheres in the interest of both nations. According to (Hermakov), an extensive exchange of notes between Russian and Cuban diplomats has been taking place recently. This process has been focused on improving bilateral ties.

The Russian official said that much of the information reported by the Russian press is false and contributes to the deterioration of the ties of friendship between Russia and Cuba. (Hermakov) referred specifically to articles that had appeared in the newspapers IZVESTIYA and NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA. These two newspapers have taken markedly anti-Cuban positions. (Karen Hachuturuv), vice president of the Russian Committee for Latin American Cooperation, and (Vladimir Boredayev), head of the Cuba-Central America-Caribbean sector of the Latin America Institute, also declared themselves in favor of the Cuban Government.

Dominican Republic Officials on Renewed Relations

FL2905131192 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 29 May 92

[Text] On 28 May in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic President Joaquin Balaguer affirmed that he will not oppose trade between the Dominican Republic and Cuba. Deputy Foreign Minister Fabio Herrera, Vice President of the Latin American Parliament Jacinto Peynado, and the three major political parties of the country also came out in favor of the reestablishment of diplomatic relations between the Dominican Republic and Cuba, which were severed 33 years ago, in 1959, during the Trujillo dictatorship.

Sugar Official Notes Spring Cane Planting 'Lag'

FL3005171492 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1604 GMT 30 May 92

[Text] At the end of a working visit to Villa Clara Province, Segundo Reyes, first vice minister of the sugar industry [title as heard], called for making a maximum effort to ready land for the spring sugarcane planting plan. As of 26 May, the province had close to 850 caballerias of cane left to plant, a task which reveals a serious lag with respect to the ending date of the program, set for 30 June. Reyes said that the reasons for Villa Clara Province's being behind schedule are an excess of rain on the north coast and a lack of fuel in the first few months of the year, a situation that Cuba is now trying to correct so as to accomplish this task and increase the volume of cane. According to a report by Guillermo Diaz, on the national level Villa Clara is one of the provinces that are farthest behind in the spring planting of cane.

Inter-Caribbean Affairs

Official on Caricom Relations With Haiti, Cuba

FL2905130792 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 29 May 92

[Text] The foreign affairs adviser to Guyana's president said Caricom [Caribbean Community] nations were disappointed that the final OAS resolution on Haiti did not address the refugee question more thoroughly. Ambassador Cedric Grant said Caricom will not be able to exert much economic pressure on Haiti. He said economic pressure would be ineffective due to the lack of Caricom trade with Haiti.

Meanwhile, in Nassau, Caricom delegates also discussed expanding their membership and agreed to reach out to Cuba. Ambassador Grant said Caricom would permit association by other non-Caricom states with the community. He also said that the community itself must reach out to other countries in the Caribbean. Mr. Grant believes that it is in Caricom's interest to continue to develop functional cooperation with Cuba especially in the area of tourism.

Antigua and Barbuda

UNHCR Asks Government for Refugee Assistance

FL2905232992 Bridgetown CANA in English 2106 GMT 29 May 92

[Text] St. John's, Antigua, May 29, CANA—The United Nations High Commission on Refugees (UNHCR) has approached the Antigua and Barbuda Government for assistance in processing Haitians fleeing their country by boats at a U.S. naval facility here.

In response, government has said it will be consulting regional governments and local groups "in order to arrive at the best course of action." A statement from the attorney general's office said the request for assistance was made through the United States Government.

"The government of Antigua and Barbuda, having regard to the tragic circumstances of the Haitians fleeing their country and the humanitarian aspect of this problem, is considering this request," the release said.

It added that the government "will consult with its Caricom (Caribbean Community) partners, local organisations and groups, in order to arrive at the best course of action."

"The request was made to Antigua and Barbuda because (it) is the only territory left in the Caricom region with United States bases," the statement said. "Processing of the Haitians will be confined to the United States naval facilities," the release added.

The Bush administration announced earlier this week that it would be returning Haitian refugees fleeing their

strife-torn country following a military coup last September which ousted popularly-elected President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

The U.S. Government has also said that it is closing a refugee camp at its Guantanamo Naval Base in Cuba.

Haiti

Senate Reacts to Izmery Murder, Urges Calm

FL2905192292 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 29 May 92

[Text] The Senate of the Republic recalls all the acts of violence that have occurred in the country over the past few days, from the assassination attempt against Senator Roul Remy to the assassination of Georges Izmery.

According to the office of the Senate, this act reflects all the violations of security that have been committed in the country over the past five years.

The Senate, in condemning these acts of violence, urges all citizens to remain cool and not to act impulsively.

Army, Authorities Called Upon

FL2905193192 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 29 May 92

[Text] The Haitian private sector, through the Haitian Chamber of Commerce and Industry [HCCI], has condemned the assassination of Georges Izmery 27 May. According to the HCCI, this assassination represents a threat against the entire private sector, which has been aware for some time that acts of violence have resumed in the country.

In view of the danger to the entire society, the HCCI believes it is necessary for the Haitian Armed Forces to take measures to end these actions because this institution is in charge of guaranteeing the safety of lives and property in Haiti. On that score, it urges both the Army and the civil authorities to assume their responsibilities toward the country so these acts of violence do not continue.

Democracy Movement Condemns Acts of Violence

FL2905190492 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 29 May 92

[Text] The Movement for the Establishment of Democracy in Haiti [MIDH] has condemned the acts of violence that have been occurring for some time. It believes that what the country needs most at this time is peace and safety.

MIDH asks for respect for freedom and remains convinced that this is necessary so Haitians can decide what they want for the country.

Havana Reports Law Prohibits Aristide's Return

FL0106015692 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 1 Jun 92

[Text] The coupist authorities in Haiti approved a law prohibiting the return of overthrown President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. The law is derived from the agreement imposed on the parliament by the military hierarchy and the interim government.

Analysts of the Haitian situation agree that this is a maneuver by the military to stay in power. Various organizations have denounced the existence of a list of President Aristide's followers, who are victims of terrorist acts by paramilitary groups. The atmosphere of repression adds to the desperate economic situation that has forced thousands of citizens to flee Haiti aboard unsafe vessels.

Army To Suspend Firearm Permits in Jacmel

FL2905152192 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 29 May 92

[Report by Jacmel correspondent Wilder Thibaud]

[Text] Following the lead of the General Headquarters, Jacmel District is considering the suspension of any authorizations for people to carry weapons. The commander of the Jacmel District will hold a meeting with all those who have permits to carry weapons in that city, according to our correspondent Wilder Thibaud in Jacmel.

[Begin Thibaud recording] The commander of the Jacmel District, Captain Gerald Larochelle, will hold a meeting on 27 May [as heard] in the Jacmel barracks with all those who have permits to carry firearms so he can cancel these permits. According to a communique issued by Jacmel Barracks, the suspension will be done for safety reasons. A two-day extension has been granted for latecomers. (?If they do not comply with this communique), sanctions may be taken against them.

This decision has come at a time when many people are asking questions about the number of people who are authorized to carry weapons and who are misusing their powers. The people, however, remain convinced that the Haitian Army is the only force in the country that has authority to exercise the power which the Constitution has given to it. The involvement of civilians in arresting and beating people can cause this force to lose its credibility, according to many people.

Hundreds Seek Political Asylum at U.S. Embassy

FL2905150492 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 29 May 92

[Text] According to the latest issue of the daily LE MATIN, 279 Haitian citizens have already sought political asylum at the U.S. Embassy in Port-au-Prince. The

daily, quoting an embassy source, said that the immigration service of the embassy has given appointments to 166 of those people.

The immigration service already has interviewed 86 citizens. Sixteen others are about to be provided political asylum in the United States. Nine of those 16 people have already left for the United States. The remaining seven are awaiting the completion of their files.

On 26 May, the U.S. Coast Guard returned 38 compatriots to the country. Seventeen of them went to the American consulate to seek asylum, according to sources.

Meanwhile, the police in Jeremie arrested 25 Haitians in the past few days who were trying to board a small boat in the Pestel area so they could go to Miami. Those people came from Port-au-Prince and Les Cayes, according to their statements. But the police released them shortly after arresting them.

Jamaica

Minister Calls For Reduction in Caricom CET

FL2905214492 Bridgetown CANA in English 1704 GMT 29 May 92

[By Paget de Freitas]

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, May 29, CANA—Jamaica, which is into a frenetic economic liberalisation programme, is to press its Caribbean Community (Caricom) partners for a sharp reduction in the group's Common External Tariff (CET), the Finance Minister Hugh Small announced Thursday [28 May] night.

"Jamaica's proposal is for a restructuring of the rates within a five-percent to 20-percent range and with a reduction of the number of zero-rated items," Small told the Jamaican Parliament as he delivered his 1992/93 budget. The present top rate on the CET is 45 percent and Small's proposal is likely to appeal to Caricom's Lesser Developed Member States (LDCS), some of which have not yet implemented the CET while others came aboard reluctantly.

Despite the several roll-backs from the original implementation date, among the 12 member states, Antigua and Barbuda, St. Kitts-Nevis, Montserrat, and Belize are yet to sign-on. Before the CET, the [words indistinct] tariffs on their extra-Caricom imports than the more developed countries (MDCS). But with few industries to protect behind a harmonised tariff and most of their consumption being from extra-regional imports, the group argues that they derive little benefit from the CET—except the dubious one of higher prices.

Small, whose proposal for the slashing of the less-than-year-old CET in part of his overall tax reform package, complained that those members which had not implemented the tariff got the double advantage of cheaper imports from third countries and duty-free entry for their products into other member states. However, Small's reasoning for the reform of the CET is more fundamental: the aim of keeping Caricom competitive internationally and not being outpaced by the countries of Latin America. He pointed to recent developments in the southern cone countries, the Andean Pact, the Central American Common Market and Mexico's negotiations with the U.S. and Canada to become part of the North American free trade area.

"In Latin America and Central America we have been overtaken in terms of more competitive tax systems...(which are) lower than the CET," Small said. And Caricom's direction, he said, should be towards the reduction of the rates, which would help to enhance competitive production, less evasion and generate more taxes to which are so often caused by the impact of lower rates.

"If we do not move in that direction, not only are we going to have inefficient industries, we are not going to have the ability to compete internationally," he warned Caricom.

El Salvador

FMLN Reportedly Threatens ONUSAL Delegate

PA2905165992 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 29 May 92

[Text] The National Police have accused the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] of threatening a UN Observers for El Salvador [ONUSAL] delegate in eastern El Salvador if he does not intercede to have a National Police security post withdrawn from El Sauce village, La Union Department. A National Police communique states that former FMLN fighters gathered near Concepcion Oriente have threatened ONUSAL in an attempt to get the National Police in El Sauce to leave.

FMLN's Political Commission member Ana Sonia Medina rejected the charge, describing it as part of an Armed Forces campaign to discredit the guerrillas. She explained that the National Commission for the Consolidation of Peace is discussing the situation in El Sauce village because the peace agreements specify there should be no military presence in that area. She reiterated, however, that the FMLN has not threatened or pressured ONUSAL delegates.

Civic Movement Communique Criticizes FMLN

PA2905201792 San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish 27 May 92 p 11

[Paid advertisement by the Free El Salvador Civic Movement: "What More Does the FMLN Want?"]

[Text] We have always known that communists do not change their way of thinking. Russia required 70 years to topple an ideology that leads to failure in countries where it is mercilessly imposed. The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] wants us to believe that the failure of communism in Europe was due to mistakes made by rulers who did not know how to implement Marx's theories. The fact is that communism fails because it destroys any desire to excel or any free initiative, which is natural in human beings. That is why communists do not believe in God.

The FMLN agreed to sign the peace agreements, knowing deep down inside that its ideas would not change. After 20 years of trying to impose itself by force, the FMLN understood that it had failed. The organization then changed its strategy, and while outlining another plan to attain power, it signed an agreement to convince other nations of its peaceful spirit. Despite that agreement, the FMLN is continuing its attempts to destabilize the government through its front organizations, which continue to promote strikes and disturbances to provoke the authorities.

How Can What We Are Saying Be Confirmed?

First, huge quantities of weapons were found hidden in safe houses after the FMLN presented a ridiculous inventory of its weapons to the UN Observers for El Salvador [ONUSAL]. After those findings were made, a bodyguard for one of the new "commanders" was machine-gunned. The government and Army were immediately blamed for the incident, although there was no evidence against them capable of withstanding an impartial investigation.

The FMLN took advantage of that incident to remove its mask of repentance and threatened to wage a new war against the Salvadoran people. Not satisfied with those public threats, the FMLN has withdrawn from the National Commission for the Consolidation of Peace [Copaz] until the government investigates the incident. Has anyone ever asked the FMLN to account for the thousands of people killed, mutilated, or orphaned, or for the humble mayors who were murdered in cold blood? Has anyone accused the FMLN of the latest attacks against Army officers?

Second, overlooking every principle of law and logic, the FMLN terrorists expect to be declared a political party by a legislative decree. We would like to know what country in the world would permit armed political parties? No democracy would tolerate such nonsense, and we are surprised that ONUSAL has endorsed this situation because no such absurdity exists in any of the countries that comprise ONUSAL.

If the FMLN wants to be a political party, it can easily do so. However, it must obey the law, surrender all of its weapons, and stop destroying the economy by organizing illegal strikes that, instead of fostering the people's well-being, only cause anguish and instability.

Third, the people want to know why the FMLN is insisting that the security bodies be dismantled prior to its disarmament. Is it, perhaps, that the FMLN has done such a good job of organizing the gangs of criminals who attack defenseless people? [sentence as published] Why are they so furiously demanding the dissolution of the National Guard and Treasury Police while they maintain their armed terrorist followers? Are they anticipating a greater gap in authority so they can deliver the blow to they people that for 12 years they were unable to accomplish?

Fourth, the FMLN is shamelessly insisting on being appointed to the municipal councils in La Union and Morazan Departments, alleging that they were not elected by the people because they boycotted the elections. They make these assertions with their trademark cynicism. Are they incapable of adapting to a de jure state? Why do they not come to San Salvador or Santa Ana where the people went out to vote despite the bombings? Would not these mayoralties be more productive for them? Why do they seek out the most forsaken towns where there are few mayors who they have not murdered, kidnapped, or intimidated?

The people are sick of those attitudes, and they expect a strong answer from the government so the country's legitimate authority will be respected.

We urge all Salvadorans who want to live in peace to join us and not allow themselves to be trampled upon by individuals (terrorists) who are accustomed to living in the realm of terror, rifles, and bombs.

Be alert, people of El Salvador: Prove that you are willing to defend your freedom, even with your own blood.

ONUSAL Updates Diplomats on Peace Process

PA2905215192 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 29 May 92

[Text] ONUSAL [UN Observers for El Salvador] met on 28 May with diplomatic corps personnel accredited in El Salvador, to update them on the peace process and discuss issues dealing with compliance delays on some agreements. ONUSAL Mission Chief Iqbal Riza presided at the ONUSAL meeting with more than 30 ambassadors; he said that the exchange allowed diplomats to learn firsthand everything about the peace process and report to their respective countries on the situation in El Salvador. ONUSAL is due to present a new report to the UN Secretary General in a few days.

[Beginning Riza recording] The meeting served to update the ambassadors on the efforts made, positive aspects such as near perfect cease-fire compliance and the absence of serious incidents for more than four months. We do have difficulties though, such as delays and partial compliances, which caused much concern a week ago. The meeting showed the support given by all the international community. [end recording]

Mexican Ambassador Hermilo Lopez-Sanchez Bassols, representative of one of the four countries that have close ties with the UN Secretary General, said that this meeting was positive because it allows other nations to support the Salvadoran peace process. Lopez-Sanchez said that although one cannot exult over everything that has taken place since the Chapultepec Agreement was signed, the report is very encouraging because it means that the peace process is moving ahead.

[Beginning Lopez-Sanchez recording] I would state emphatically that we agree 100 percent with the ONUSAL mission chief's report on the peace process. We were definitely not expecting an extremely positive or exultant report. The peace process has gone through difficult moments and I believe all Salvadorans know full well what these are and have readily identified them, but in the final account all problems are being overcome. [end recording]

The 28 May meeting was also attended by representatives of UN organizations in El Salvador that are coordinating international aid.

General Vargas Warns About Return of Violence

PA3005045192 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 29 May 92 p 3

[Text] General Mauricio Ernesto Vargas, deputy chief of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the Armed Forces, said that violent and terrorist actions similar to those of the 1970's and 1980's are being fostered by the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] aimed at reaching power while they continue to maintain a military front.

This was disclosed by Vargas, who, in his capacity as negotiator, stressed that the FMLN knew that eventually the peace dialogue would lead to their disarmament and they do not want to comply with what they signed in the agreements.

Vargas supported his statements by showing a document that contains the strategy to be followed by the People's Revolutionary Army in the future in which the military angle is stressed.

"Now that our nation is progressing toward the consolidation of peace and the strengthening of its democratic system, there are illegal actions—hidden behind divers masks—operating on different fronts (political, economic, and social). These actions promote chaos, fear, tension, and insecurity," Vargas said.

"There is a need for a calm voice to call out and point out the consequences of those actions upon society, particularly, in the future, before we get used to those actions. The accumulation of these actions sensitize the people's spirit, while they generate a serious impact on the construction of a new society, which is something we would regret in the future," he added.

When questioned on how he would define the current situation in El Salvador, Vargas said that there is a significant political reordering, but that these destabilizing actions similar to those of the 1980's, such as kidnappings, illegal takeovers, murders, and frequent strikes are a matter of concern.

Vargas noted: "We should not return to that era. After the peace agreements, we cannot tolerate violence and the actions that caused us so much harm in the past."

Guatemala

Serrano Says Agreement With URNG 'Possible'

PA2905143992 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 0340 GMT 28 May 92

[Text] President Jorge Serrano Elias said on 27 May in Seville, Spain, that it is possible to reach an agreement with the guerrillas to attain peace in Guatemala. During an interview in Spain, Serrano referred to the talks with the URNG [Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity].

[Begin Serrano recording] We understand, as we have always stated, that peace is not the end of the war. Peace is what allows man to live free from anguish, anxiety, and fear. To achieve this, it is necessary to have social justice; a system of law that protects the rights of individuals; and a democratic system that allows man to

expand his horizons, express himself, and participate actively in the creation of his society. We have maintained a position to create broader horizons in order to build the foundations of peace.

I would say the negotiations with the insurgents are going well. A third agreement has already been reached. Previous agreements were made in Oslo, El Escorial, and Mexico, and we could now be on the verge of reaching another agreement on the basic issue of human rights. This will permit us to discuss global issues that could ultimately lead, within a short period of time, to a final agreement. This will alleviate the suffering of the people who live in conflict-ridden areas in the northern part of the country. We want to help these people and bring development to them.

Under the present circumstances, however, it is impossible to achieve this goal, because the resources the state must use for education, health, and other basic things are regrettably being used to defend the country from aggression. [end recording]

President Serrano Ends Official Visit to Spain

PA3105215192 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1244 GMT 30 May 92

[Text] Madrid, 30 May (EFE)—Guatemalan President Jorge Serrano returned on 30 May to his country, concluding his official visit to Spain.

The president arrived in Spain on 25 May, accompanied by his wife, Magda Bianchi. After spending two days in Madrid, he went to Seville, where he presided over the official ceremony on Guatemala Day at Expo '92.

While in Madrid, the head of state met with Spanish King Juan Carlos and Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez. He attended a ceremony at the Congress of Deputies and made an appeal for international cooperation to strengthen democracy and institutions in Guatemala.

In addition, Serrano visited the America House, a project meant to promote the Iberian-American identity in Madrid and Spain. The Madrid Municipality awarded him the key to the city.

Germany, EC Suspend Economic Aid to Country

PA3105204892 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1645 GMT 31 May 92

[Text] Guatemala City, 31 May (NOTIMEX)—Rolf Linkohr, vice president of the European Parliament delegation for relations with Central America and Mexico, stated that Germany has suspended economic assistance to Guatemala because the Guatemalan Government has been unable to carry out established programs.

Linkohr added that Guatemala has not been able to spend $128 million Deutsche marks assigned for development projects.

"Red tape is the main problem. Guatemalans have taken over four years to implement those programs, which is why the German Government withdrew its aid," Linkohr noted.

The European deputy admitted that although the EC and the German Government decided to support regional development programs, they are not prepared to allocate funds to "finance projects that will yield no results."

"Bureaucratic inefficiency is the chief stumbling block preventing Guatemala from getting new aid," he noted at the end of his visit to this country.

He regretted that the decision had to be made, but there are other nations in urgent need of help, and the resources will be earmarked for them, he stated.

Defense Minister Responds to Sosa's Statements

PA3005031492 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 0340 GMT 29 May 92

[Text] The statements made on 27 May by Colonel Luis Ernesto Sosa Avila, former presidential candidate for the National Liberation Movement, against the government resulted in various reactions on 28 May. Sosa reported negligence on the part of the security forces in conducting the investigation of the murder of Colonel Raul Andrade de Leon on 24 May. Sosa warned that if this crime is not clarified soon, the military officers who have condemned the murder of the officer will react vigorously against the government, including his classmates from the Polytechnic School.

Commenting on Col. Sosa's 28 May statements, Government Minister Fernando Hurtado Prem stated that any citizen is free to make requests, adding that the murder of Col. Andrade is being investigated.

Meanwhile, Defense Minister General Jose Domingo Garcia Samayoa stated:

[Begin recording] [Gen. Garcia] I have clearly stated that we, as an armed institution, respect the law. Col. Sosa was discharged from the Guatemalan Army, therefore, he is responsible for what he is saying. We do not share his position of taking justice into his own hands. We respect the law.

We have condemned this incident and have begun an investigation so that those responsible will be turned over to the courts, as established by the law.

We are living in a state of law, not in a state of anarchy. This must be our policy. Being arrogant and believing that one is strong enough to always get what one wants, is not in line with respecting the state of law.

[Unidentified reporter] What are the people being told [words indistinct?

[Gen. Garcia] I do not think it is the right thing to do. The people know what they want.

The people know that authorities and a regime of legality exists. They understand that we will work within this framework.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Gen. Garcia] [Words indistinct] Attorney General's Office [words indistinct] Those responsible for promoting anarchy will face their punishment.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] support of the 46th class [words indistinct]?

[Gen. Garcia] Well, I do not know about this. I am simply answering your question on the statements made by Sosa. You would have to ask them if they truly support what Sosa has stated.

What I am saying is that we are going to respect the state of law and legality. [end recording]

Nicaragua

Chamorro Calls Ortega Summons 'Unconstitutional'

PA3005150992 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 29 May 92 p 14

[Letter from President Violeta Chamorro to National Assembly President Alfredo Cesar in Managua on 28 May]

[Text] Managua, 28 May 1992
Alfredo Cesar Aguirre National Assembly President At His Office
Mr. National Assembly President:

To contribute to the attainment of the necessary harmony among government branches by exchanging information to solve the country's problems, I have always authorized ministers, directors of autonomous institutions, and other government officials to appear before the National Assembly when they have been invited to do so.

Thus, the summoning of a government official for questioning is unnecessary and unjustified because the two government branches have already agreed upon and established the invitation procedures to be used in such cases—particularly when the summoning, as in the case of Army General Humberto Ortega, is unconstitutional, as this official cannot be subject to questioning.

I have, however, instructed Army General Humberto Ortega to appear before the National Assembly Government and Defense Commission at 1000 on 29 May. He will accept National Assembly First Secretary Fernando Zelaya Rojas' invitation to express his opinions on the matters stated in the appearance request.

I hope that in this manner, any doubts and apprehensions with respect to the issues in question may be clarified.

Once again I express my willingness to cooperate with the National Assembly in clarifying and solving the various aspects of our national life, and therefore consolidate the process of constructing a democracy.

Yours Truly,
Violeta Barrios de Chamorro
President of the Republic of Nicaragua.

Ortega Meets With Government Commission, Media

PA3005120992 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 29 May 92

[Statement by Army Chief General Humberto Ortega to the National Assembly Government Commission and news conference by Gen. Ortega with domestic and international reporters in Managua on 29 May]

[Text] General Humberto Ortega was welcomed at the right wing of the Legislative Assembly, which is reserved for special visitors and parliamentary advisers. Government Commission President Frank Duarte asked the Army chief why he has been linked to two armies, the one he heads and a clandestine one. This issue was considered among the most important, which allegedly prompted the summoning of Gen. Ortega for interrogation. Here is what the high-ranking officer said:

[Begin Ortega recording] Our staff met with the Government Ministry and Police and decided at that time that those kinds of actions were a thing of the past and there should be no further attempts to trample the spirit of tolerance that we believe should prevail in this country in the future. The fact that we practice tolerance does not mean that authorities should be disrespected [words indistinct].

This is why we decided to establish a plan, along with the Police and other security authorities in this country, to neutralize possible outbreaks and plots that were already in progress. We dismantled the most serious ones in Managua. They included anarchic plots, such as blocking access to airports, occupation of airports, incursions against the refinery. These were vandalistic, anarchic, and very dangerous actions.

Thus, through our active role [words indistinct] managed to neutralize these kinds of actions. We decided to eliminate those that were already in progress. We adopted a more active role. That is the difference between our actions during the times of "El Indomable" [Jose Angel Moran] and now.

In other words, this does not mean that we will now begin an indiscriminate and savage repression. We decided to adopt a more active role, as opposed to the (?restricted) role to which we are subjected. Illegal land occupations in northern Nicaragua worsened the situation considerably; however, as a result of our new role, we managed to vacate most of them. The same happened in western Nicaragua, where we have seen the significant progress that you have learned about.

This also means that we have created greater awareness throughout the world and among political groups that this cannot continue. We cannot, for any reason, tolerate armed confrontations or violence. One sees this in other countries [passage indistinct]. I believe we have done much in that direction, but the fourth phase of civilian disarmament is pending [words indistinct] coercive action of the Army and Police, which want to act more in keeping with the law [passage indistinct] apply the corresponding punishments on those who commit crimes. [end recording]

After appearing before the Government Commission Gen. Ortega told numerous local and foreign journalists that National Assembly President Alfredo Cesar must stop boycotting President Chamorro for the sake of the Nicaraguan people and to bring peace and development to the country:

[Begin recording] [Reporter] What would happen if the guerrilla war against the chief executive continues here in the parliament?

[Ortega] I believe this situation must be overcome as soon as possible because this government requires.... [pauses] [words indistinct] create an adequate atmosphere to (?improve) our economy and save Nicaragua, and be able to give a clearer outlook to the people here who are even more hungry and desperate because of this terrible economic situation.

We cannot continue to boycott the efforts of President Chamorro, much less should those who are better educated, such as the president of the National Assembly, boycott her efforts. I believe that now is the time to reflect on this. The bad thing is not to have erred, but to continue to err. It is human to rectify. It is senseless to continue to err.

[Text] [Reporter] What could happen?

[Ortega] We could face even greater difficulties or an even more serious outlook for our country.

[Reporter] Will you hold direct talks with Mr. Cesar to discuss this situation?

[Ortega] I have no problems with Mr. Cesar. No personal problem is involved here. There is no problem between the Army and the Assembly. There is no problem of that sort here. We have never been invited by him, on a personal basis or in his capacity as Assembly president, to discuss our Army's problems [words indistinct] we have often come to the assembly, through our finance chief or other representatives, to discuss our difficulties, problems, and the way we (?operate).

The problem here is between the chief executive and the Assembly, not between us and the Assembly. The problem is that Alfredo Cesar disagrees with the way in which the president is ruling the country [4-second break in reception] Cesar and President Chamorro, and does not involve us. [end recording]

Gen. Ortega told the journalists that he filed an amparo against the Assembly president's attempt to summon him before a plenary session of the National Assembly for questioning:

[Begin recording] [Reporter] [Question indistinct]?

[Ortega] I have here an amparo I filed at the honorable civilian appeals court in Region 3 in Managua, as soon I learned about a letter that Mrs. Chamorro addressed to Cesar on whether she would authorize my appearance on 29 May before the Defense and Security Commission. She stated that this questioning they wanted to subject me to should not take place because it is illegal.

As a result, early on 29 May, I filed an amparo in which I stated very clearly why the unnecessary action they want to subject me to is unconstitutional. Legal matters apart, I believe that the citizens are the best judges: the cattlemen, coffee growers, farmers, urban workers, artisans, employed, unemployed, and so on. They are the great judges that realize what is the most prudent attitude.

I urge the president of the Assembly—during these dramatic times for Nicaragua—to once and for all avoid unnecessary confrontations with the president of the Republic. This clash between the executive and legislative branches prevents the country's progress because these two branches must work harmoniously.

The government headed by President Chamorro is determined to further this process of reconciliation and economic reconstruction. I believe that [words indistinct] because this attitude does not help advance the country. [end recording]

Cesar Insists Ortega Appear Before Full Assembly

PA3105215092 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 30 May 92 pp 1, 7

[Text] National Assembly President Alfredo Cesar warned on 29 May that if General Humberto Ortega, chief of the Sandinist People's Army [EPS], does not appear on 3 June, "he will be questioned in absence."

During a confusing news conference, without electricity and sound equipment, and while Ortega was testifying before the Government and Defense Commission, Cesar said Ortega's appearance before that commission was not related to the summons agreed on by the full National Assembly by a vote of 47 to 43. Commenting on President Violeta Barrios de Chamorro's view, he said that was only her "personal opinion."

Cesar stated the president does not have the "power" to judge the constitutionality of a decision by the National Assembly and insisted Ortega has the obligation to appear before the congress on 3 June.

The National Assembly President described Mrs. Chamorro decision to reject the summons to the EPS chief as a "cover-up" and a "blocking of the legislative branch."

"This is a bad precedent," he added, because Mrs. Chamorro is adopting a stance "similar to Peru's," where President Alberto Fujimori staged a palace coup, in siding with the Armed Forces "against the legislative branch." "Although it is clear the situation in Peru was much more serious because the congress was dissolved...this is a dangerous action for the democratic process all the same," he added.

As for the decision by Deputy Frank Duarte, chairman of the Government and Defense Commission, to maintain his invitation to Ortega despite Cesar's opposition, the National Assembly president felt (the 29 May appearance) "has nothing to do with the summons voted on by the full Assembly."

"I am still hopeful the official (Ortega) will come on 3 June," Cesar indicated and added the full Assembly "will treat him with respect."

"He must not be afraid, since I guarantee, as is customary for me, I will not let anyone insult him or be discourteous, because we respect ideas at the National Assembly," he indicated.

Cesar also discussed the matter of U.S. aid to Nicaragua, which he said is being squandered in favor of Sandinist organizations. He stated that the fact a state bank gives a loan to a newspaper owned by the Sandinist National Liberation Front constitutes proof of the alleged "deviation."

He was asked at the end of the news conference about his ties of friendship and kinship with President Chamorro, as the president called him "selfish and vain," during a news conference. "It is an offhand remark that must not mar years of friendship," he concluded.

Chamorro Opens Indian Affairs Commission Meeting

PA2905143792 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 2200 GMT 28 May 92

["Excerpts" of a speech delivered by President Violeta Barrios de Chamorro at the inauguration of the Sixth Meeting of the Indian and Ethnic Affairs Commission of the Latin American Parliament in Managua on 28 May—recorded]

[Text] On behalf of the Nicaraguan democratic government, it is an honor to install the Latin American Parliament Indian Affairs Commission in our country.

The Nicaraguan Government and people are also honored by the election of a Nicaraguan Indian, Alfonso Smith, to head this commission installed in Managua on 28 May.

The Nicaraguan constitution defines us as people with a diversity of ethnic groups and races. According to the law, our Indian communities have all rights to preserve and develop their cultural identity. The Nicaraguan state—my government—respects the rights of the Indian communities to establish their own type of social organization and to handle their affairs according to their own traditions, within the established legal and constitutional framework. We must recognize the Indians' legal rights to maintain their own communities and societies and their right to use and distribute the wealth obtained from their community land.

Since 25 April 1990 my government has been making great efforts to overcome the consequences of a war that caused much suffering for our people and large property damage in our country.

Nicaraguans are determined to build a free and democratic society, based on national dialogue, peace, and the definitive and permanent disarming of civilians. We have been burying rifles and replacing them with plows. The building of democracy is also based on progress, economic recovery with social justice, a just distribution of wealth, and structural adjustments.

Panama

Ministry Communique on Break With Peru, Haiti

PA3005160692 Panama City CRITICA LIBRE in Spanish 30 May 92 p 5

[Communique issued by the Foreign Ministry in Panama City on 28 May]

[Text] 1. The Ad Hoc Commission of OAS Foreign Ministers met in Washington on 2 October 1991 following the overthrow of Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. During this meeting, it was decided that the OAS secretary general would travel to Haiti with several foreign ministers to demand that the deposed president be immediately reinstated.

2. The Ad Hoc Commission met again in Washington on 8 October to consider the report by the delegation that traveled to Port-au-Prince. After meeting, the Panamanian Government, in compliance with Decree 364 of 4 September 1990, suspended diplomatic relations with the de facto government in Haiti. At the time, the Panamanian Government did not ask the Haitian Government to recall its diplomatic representatives accredited in Panama because they repudiated the Haitian de facto government and expressed their loyalty to the deposed president to Panamanian Foreign Minister Julio Linares .

3. The Ad Hoc Commission met in Washington on 13 April 1992 following Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori's palace coup. The Commission then decided that the minister presiding over the meeting, any ministers he might invite, and the OAS secretary general should fly to Peru to try to restore democratic and institutional order.

4. On 17 May 1992, the Ad Hoc Commission met in Nassau, Bahamas for the second time to consider a report by the delegation that traveled to Lima. After the meeting, the Panamanian Government, in compliance

with Decree 364 of 4 September 1990, suspended diplomatic relations with the de facto government established in Peru.

5. It can be inferred from all this: first, that diplomatic relations between Panama and the de facto governments of Haiti and Peru have been suspended; and second, in the case of Peru, Panama applied the same procedure applied in the case of Haiti. That is to say, Panama suspended diplomatic relations with Peru after the second meeting of the OAS Foreign Ministers' Ad Hoc Commission.

Panama City, 28 May 1992.

Endara, Modesco Sign 19-Point Agreement

PA2905234292 Panama City Telemetro Television Network in Spanish 1730 GMT 29 May 92

[Report by Francilino Diaz in Colon]

[Text] President Guillermo Endara and the Movement of the Colon Province Unemployed [Modesco] on 29 May signed a historic document in Colon ending the unrest of Colon residents who staged protests and street disturbances weeks ago.

The San Jose Church, bastion of Modesco's struggles, was the site where Colon residents and the government signed the agreement. Modesco voiced its satisfaction for the 19 point-agreement, but warned that the movement will remain alive to ensure the agreement is fulfilled, otherwise, they will take to the streets again.

President Endara, after strolling along several Colon streets amid the expectation of its residents, said the agreement signed will become a reality compared to previous ones. He thanked Modesco for helping improve his popularity among Colon residents.

Among the most important points of the agreement are: Approval of $15.9 million in credit, creation of 1,500 new jobs, immediate execution of the province's budget, and suspension of evictions of families unable to meet rent payments.

'Text' of Agreement

PA0106005792 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 30 May 92 p B-15

[Text of "agreement" between the government and the Movement of the Colon Province Unemployed, Modesco, issued in Colon on 29 May]

[Text] Point No. 1: The Executive Branch will declare a provincial emergency in Colon Province through an executive decree, which will be issued this week.

Point No. 1.1: The Executive Branch will ask the Legislative Assembly to grant a 15.9 million [currency not specified] special credit to carry out the programs and projects approved by the High-Level Commission, which will be alluded to below and will be created in keeping with the preceding paragraph.

In addition, the Executive Branch assumes the additional commitment to obtain financing for executing development programs approved by the High-Level Commission in excess of 15.9 million [currency not specified]. This financing will come from tax collection surpluses or other internal or external sources. The financing will be obtained to get the necessary amount to meet the list of demands and aspirations proposed by Modesco [Movement of the Colon Province Unemployed] and approved by the High-Level Commission.

Point No. 1.2: The government will execute, on a priority basis, the investments budget for Colon Province. In those cases where urgent investments are required, the Cabinet Council will exempt the public bid requisite from the respective contracts. To this effect, the Cabinet Council will consult with and heed the advise of the High-Level Commission.

In Colon Province work contracts, the government will include the following clause: "The contractor is obliged to hire all his workers among people residing in Colon Province.

"When the contractor is unable to hire qualified personnel in Colon Province, he will be able to hire personnel elsewhere, after receiving the authorization of the respective ministry or autonomous entity.

"Before obtaining the proper authorization, the respective ministry or autonomous entity will consult with and consider the opinion of the placement agency."

Point No. 1.3: In addition to the jobs created by the general plan of Colon Province approved by the High-Level Commission, the immediate creation of the following is confirmed:

1. Jobs will be created using 3.5 million [currency not specified], which will be deducted from the aforementioned 15.9 million [currency not specified] special credit.

2. Jobs will be created using Special Social Fund.

3. Jobs will be created in companies established in the Free Zone.

These jobs will be offered to Colon-born citizens or persons residing in Colon.

A placement agency will be created to assist the Colon unemployed to obtain jobs that will be handled by the High-Level Commission.

Point No. 2: A High-Level Commission will be created. It will be formed by eight members, four from the government and four from the groups of Colon with their respective alternate representatives. The main duty of this commission will be to establish a general plan for Colon Province, emphasizing the creation of jobs and

the study of alternatives for the development of the province. The High-Level Commission will have to present its first report within three months. This commission will be able to create subcommissions to analyze and present solutions.

The High-Level Commission will receive human and physical resources so it can operate normally.

The government declares it will appoint Dr. Alfredo Ehlers to the High-Level Commission. He will have direct access to the Cabinet Council when his opinion on the topics being discussed by the High-Level Commission is required.

Point No. 3: The government pledges to modify Article 7 of Cabinet Decree No. 74 dated 27 June 1990, which regulates the Colon Free Zone Special Protection Service. This will be done to add two members to the president's Advisory Board: One proposed by Modesco and the other proposed by the Broad Front for the Rescue of Colon (Frasco).

After the approval by the High-Level Commission, a reform bill creating the office of Codeco [Commission for the Development of Colon] will be presented before the Legislative Assembly to restructure its administrative duties and task it with executing the projects approved by the High-Level Commission. Such a reform bill will determine that the funds collected by the Special Protection Service will be handled by Codeco, in the same manner these funds are now administered. One Modesco representative and another from Frasco, will be appointed to the Consulting Commission, which will be created to make recommendations on better use of the resources.

Point No. 4: Within the next 15 days, Anibal Ponce will receive all the necessary resources to pay for his trip to Miami, as well as his medical treatment and the surgeries recommended by doctors.

The government pledges to grant Anibal Ponce a scholarship for a period of no less than three years.

Point No. 5: The High-Level Commission will seek alternatives to preserve the jobs created. In addition, the High-Level Commission will establish the amount of the corresponding salaries.

Point No. 6: The government pledges to request Colon Free Zone merchants to fill vacancies with those registered at the job placement agency created by the High-Level Commission.

Point No. 7: The national government reiterates its commitment to enforce, when applicable, Article 41 of Law 93 dated 4 October 1973, which reads as follows:

"It will not carry out evictions on real estate property used for housing when the persons living there cannot afford to pay their rent due to illness, unemployment, or lack of any source of revenue."

Point No. 8: The High-Level Commission will be tasked with conducting an investigation on the obligations established in the agreement signed by the Colon Free Zone and COFRISA [expansion unknown] on 10 August 1981 and adopt the measures necessary to enforce it.

Point No. 9: The Housing Ministry is currently reorganizing its regional office in Colon to grant it greater functions to allow it to implement the Ministry's projects and fall under the direction of the deputy minister. The reorganization should be ready within 30 days.

Point No. 10: The government pledges to allocate at least 50 percent of the special credit for low-income housing in Colon Province. The High-Level Commission will submit housing plans and projects as soon as possible.

Point No. 11: To legalize the status of residents of occupied lands in the reverted areas, the Legislative Assembly Housing Committee must approve Cabinet Decree No. 42 dated 6 November 1991. The Housing Ministry, however, has held meetings in different neighborhoods to inform residents of the technical and social requirements to begin legalization of their ownership titles.

The agreements reached on 15 September 1991 between the Housing Ministry and the representatives of these residents will be followed.

The government will contact the Savings Bank, Panama National Bank, National Mortgage Bank, and the Social Security Fund to try to legalize the status of the residents in areas under the jurisdiction of these entities.

Point No. 12: It is agreed the Education Subcommittee to be established by the High-Level Commission will investigate the appointment of teaching, administrative, and maintenance personnel of the Education Ministry.

Point No. 13: The Prospero Melendez Polyclinic drugstore will service the public every day, around the clock, including holidays. Within a period not longer than 15 days, the drugstore will receive the medicines and personnel necessary to provide uninterrupted service.

Point No. 14: A Cargo Transportation Subcommission will be appointed to analyze and draft regulations for transporting cargo in the Colon Free Zone to be submitted for High-Level Commission consideration. Until the regulations are approved, Resolution No. 01-87 will be in effect.

Point No. 15: On 18 May, the Public Works Ministry requested bids for the repair of the Battery 35-Achiote-Pina Highway, 19 km long and made of a limited transit pavement surface, which is worth 2,447,859 balboas. The Public Works Ministry may request bids for the work for the Pina-Rio Indio Highway stretch within 45 days, with prior approval by the High-Level Commission.

Point No. 16: The Commerce and Industries Ministry will provide 150,000 balboas to small-scale businessmen

for their losses suffered in December 1989. The corresponding checks will be delivered in less than 15 days.

Point No. 17: The government's 1992 investment program includes building the Portobelo aqueduct. Bids to execute this project will be accepted before 30 June 1992 and the corresponding work must begin in late September 1992. The estimated cost for this project is 300,000 [currency not specified], and the Special Protection Service will provide the funds.

Point No. 18: The National Port Authority will transfer its main office to Colon Province. The work to repair the installations needed for this purpose must begin within 30 days. The High-Level Commission will create a subcommission to carry out this transfer.

Point No. 19: The High-Level Commission, through a subcommission in charge of the agriculture and livestock sector, will study with special interest those problems related to the production of cocoa, African palm, and coconut. To that effect, the Agricultural Development Ministry will organize meetings with producers from these three groups within 30 days following the signing of this agreement and will submit its recommendations to the subcommission within 60 days following the signing of the agreement.

The aforementioned terms are agreed on without precluding the elaboration of a plan to develop the whole system of agricultural production, including marketing, before 31 December 1991.

[Issued] Colon, 29 May 1992

[Signed] President Guillermo Endara Galimany

For Modesco [no signatures as published]

Deputy Foreign Minister on Foreign Policy, Peru

PA3005144092 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 29 May 92

[Text] Panamanian Deputy Foreign Minister Jose Raul Mulino has said the government has already clearly defined its foreign policy. Mulino also said there is nothing counterproductive about breaking relations with Peru.

[Begin recording] [Mulino] We believe we have fully explained our foreign policy. Some refuse to listen to or understand our foreign policy. It is a topic that is very difficult to explain in one or two minutes. I believe the foreign minister explained our foreign policy at the Legislative Assembly about a month ago. The Legislative Assembly records must contain clear references to Panamanian foreign policy and the principles on which it is based. It is there for the perusal of any Panamanian who is really interested in learning about the topic.

[Reporter] There is a contradiction between our foreign and diplomatic policies. Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori came to Panama a few days ago. He was well received, but relations with that country were broken a few days later. What can you tell us?

[Mulino] I see no contradiction. Things are often said without knowing or without asking first. When Fujimori came here, Panama still had relations with that country. He was met at the airport by a minister with no type of honors or protocols. It was simply a matter of basic courtesy. Nothing is lost in doing so. Nothing is lost by being courteous. In addition, I find no sin in receiving a foreign head of state and allowing him to use our diplomatic room at the airport, even if we do not have relations with his country. [end recording]

Colon Free Zone Urged Not To Deal With Cuba

PA0106020792 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 30 May 92 p 16A

[Report by Luis A. Dudley Porras]

[Excerpts] Luis Sabines, president of the Latin Chamber of Commerce of the United States [CAMACOL], stated in Panama that businessmen who own businesses in the Colon Free Zone are supporting the Fidel Castro regime by doing business with the "dictator."

Sabines, who is Cuban, stated: "I beg Asians, Koreans, and businessmen from other nations who have businesses in the Free Zone and who are doing business with the Fidel Castro regime to stop making commercial deals with this dictator."

The president of CAMACOL participated in Panama in a seminar on imports from and exports to the United States through Florida. The seminar was organized by the Chamber of Commerce and Industries of Panama and CAMACOL. [passage omitted]

Regarding the "business" transactions between the Free Zone businessmen and the Cuban regime, the Cuban businessman said: "We know who they are and if they do not stop this activity, we will promote a boycott of their product among the Latin American community in the United States."

Sabines said: "The commercial ties that exist between Castro and Panama are not new, the whole world knows about them, and we would like, now that Panama is again a free country, to see how you help us end the Castro regime, which has been in power for 33 years."

Brazil

Interpol Probes Presence of Alleged Terrorists

PY0106024892 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1545 GMT 31 May 92

[Text] Sao Paulo (Brazil), 31 May (EFE)—According to the newspaper FOLHA DE SAO PAULO, Interpol is conducting an investigation in Brazil into the presence of eight men, who are allegedly members of a Palestinian terrorist organization and who apparently are preparing an attack to be carried out during the Earth Summit that will be inaugurated in Rio de Janeiro next week.

According to Interpol's report, the men allegedly interested in sabotaging the UN Conference on Environment and Development [UNCED] are members of the "Al-Fatah Revolutionary Council" organization, headed by Palestinian Abu Nidal.

Romeu Tuma, Interpol's chief in Sao Paulo, stressed to the newspaper that the Brazilian police received a report from the secret services in this regard a week ago. Tuma explained to the newspaper that he keeps in touch with the forces of order throughout the world "in order to know what is going on."

Apparently, the extremists would be interested in attacking the Israeli consulate in Rio de Janeiro and a hotel in this city where a Jewish women's congress will be held simultaneously with the Earth Summit.

In November 1991, the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) alerted the Brazilian police to the possible entry of terrorist groups into the country through Uruguay during the summit. Following the arrest of several members of the ETA [Basque Fatherland and Liberty] terrorist organization two weeks ago, no mention was made of whether these people could be those who wanted to enter Brazil.

Edson de Oliveira, Interpol's general delegate in Brazil, has said that the police do not rule out the possibility of an attack in Rio de Janeiro during the summit as there will be more than 100 heads of state in the city.

Officers Warn People May 'Summon' Coup

PY3005221692 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1940 GMT 30 May 92

[Text] Fortaleza, 30 May (EFE)—A group of reserve Brazilian officers, some of whom are members of the former military regime, today warned that Brazil is "broke" and that the people will summon the Armed Forces to end the economic and social crisis.

A communique signed by 40 officers of the nation's three military branches denounced the existence of "corruption" in the political power and said that "our crisis is not only of a monetary nature. The crisis we are experiencing is of a moral nature."

According to the document, Brazil's "decay" is reflected in the "lack of respect" and the "violation" of the laws and citizens' rights, as well as the lack of safety and the existence of social violence in large cities such as Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo.

The military officers warn that Brazil is heading for a "social revolution," which is indicated in the number of strikes and the wave of looting registered at the beginning of the month against several supermarkets in the needy suburbs of Rio de Janeiro.

The communique warns: "What will happen in Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo when the mobs get out of hand? The Armed Forces will be summoned and they will do their duty."

The officers then say that "corruption has undermined" the political power "that now defends groups and individuals."

Among the officers who signed the document is Euclydes Figueiredo, brother of former President Joao Baptista Figueiredo, the last president of the military regime that ruled from 1964 to 1985.

Last month this same group issued a communique demanding better salaries for the military, while in Brasilia relatives of military members demonstrated to protest low salaries.

The message was disclosed two weeks after one of President Fernando Collor's brothers charged him with being involved in cases of corruption that will be investigated by the judicial branch and Congress.

At the beginning of the year, Collor carried out a broad cabinet reshuffle and replaced several ministers and public servants who were charged with draining public funds, illegal enrichment, and influence peddling.

Pedro Collor Questioned by Federal Police

PY2905223092 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 29 May 92 p 1

[Text] Businessman Pedro Collor, youngest brother of the president of the Republic, yesterday delivered a dossier to the Federal Police in Sao Paulo which—according to him—contains proof of businessman Paulo Cesar [PC] Farias' illegal enrichment. During his five-hour questioning, however, he did not make any charges against President Collor.

At the end of his questioning by the Federal Police, Pedro Collor refused to specify what proof was presented against PC saying only that the public is not aware of all the evidence.

Legislators Receive Dossier

PY3005023292 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2300 GMT 29 May 92

[Text] PT [Workers Party] legislators who will participate in the CPI [Congressional Investigating Commission] that will investigate the charges against businessman Paulo Cesar Farias [PC] have met with the president's brother, Pedro Collor de Mello.

The purpose of the meeting was to prepare the work of the CPI that will begin investigating reports against Paulo Cesar Farias as of 1 June. The documents on the table and part of the dialogue proved that the main topic of the meeting was the bank accounts that PC allegedly had in financial havens like Aruba.

During the meeting Pedro Collor distributed copies of documents that he had given to the Federal Police adding new revelations that he preferred not to disclose. Pedro Collor told reporters that some businessmen who were willing to testify against PC are now afraid to do so.

[Begin Pedro Collor recording] People who at first encouraged me to make the charges have now studied the legal ramifications and now they feel they are vulnerable. This is understandable. [end recording]

Businessman Paulo Cesar Farias distributed an official note tonight addressing the charges made against him by the president's brother, Pedro Collor de Mello. The businessman will stay in Maceio, Alagoas, at the disposal of authorities in case he has to clarify anything. He said he was most interested in the broadest possible investigations because they will show that he is innocent.

Collor Arrives in Rio for Environment Conference

PY3005172692 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 30 May 92

[Excerpts] President Fernando Collor arrived in Rio de Janeiro last night and immediately fulfilled the first commitment of his 16-day stay in Rio de Janeiro to participate in the world conference on environment.

After having dinner with businessmen to conclude a seminar on sustained development, President Collor went to Laranjeiras Palace, which will be his official residence during his stay in Rio de Janeiro. Governor Leonel Brizola accompanied the president to Laranjeiras Palace. [passage omitted]

As of 1 June, President Collor will work at Riocenter. He will meet with Mines and Energy Minister Pratini de Moraes, Presidency Secretary General Marcos Coimbra, and Military Household Chief Agenor Homem de Carvalho.

President Collor arrived in Rio last night and participated in a dinner marking the conclusion of a seminar on sustained development. In his speech, President Collor said we cannot have an environmentally healthy planet in a socially unjust world. Speaking to businessmen, President Collor insisted in the need to adopt an index capable of guaranteeing wealth and the people's well-being.

[Begin Collor recording] Once again I want to insist on the need to adopt an index capable of guaranteeing, in addition to the volume of wealth, the people's well-being. [end recording]

According to the president, science and technology must serve to achieve the objectives of justice.

Poll Shows 'Most People' Support President

PY3005181492 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2300 GMT 29 May 92

[Text] A survey conducted by the IBOPE [Brazilian Statistics and Public Opinion Institute] throughout the country over the past two days shows what Brazilians think of the charges made by the president's brother, businessman Pedro Collor de Mello.

According to the survey, 72 percent of those questioned had heard about Pedro Collor's accusations, and 28 percent had not.

A total of 48 percent of those questioned said that the charges are a public matter that interests the entire country, 42 percent thought it was a private matter that interests only the Collor family, and 10 percent of those questioned said they did not know or they did not answer.

The pollsters asked what word best described the charges. A total of 23 percent of those questioned said the charges made by businessman Pedro Collor are shocking, 19 percent said they are true, 18 percent said they are exaggerated, another 18 percent said the charges are irresponsible, 16 percent said they are necessary, 16 percent did not know or did not answer, 14 percent thought the charges are unimportant, another 14 percent said they are lies, 13 percent said they are not serious, and 8 percent said the charges are responsible. [numbers as heard]

The survey asked the opinion of those questioned about the charges. Those who had heard about them, or 32 percent, said most of the charges were true, 26 percent did not know or did not answer, 20 percent said most of the charges were false, 13 percent said the charges were all false, and 9 percent said they were all true.

Pollsters asked if there is more, less, or equal corruption at the federal government level in comparison with other government levels, such as state and municipal governments. A total of 45 percent of those questioned said that corruption is equal at all levels, 24 percent said corruption is much more extensive at the federal government level, 14 percent did not know or did not answer, 9 percent said there is slightly more corruption at the federal government level, 6 percent said there is slightly less, and 2 percent said there is much less.

IBOPE pollsters wanted to know what Brazilians think prompted the president's brother to make the charges. These were the answers:

A total of 32 percent of those questioned said the reason was envy of the president's success, 27 percent said the charges were made in defense of Pedro Collor's private interests, 20 percent said they were to help moralize the government, 17 percent said they were made in defense of family interests, 16 percent did not know or did not answer, 14 percent said it was due to a lack of emotional control, and 13 percent said the charges were caused by envy of Paulo Cesar Farias' influence with the president. [numbers as heard]

A total of 51 percent of those questioned disapproved of Pedro Collor's attitude when presenting charges that could hurt his brother. 36 percent approved Pedro Collor's attitude, and 13 percent did not know or did not answer.

A total of 58 percent of those questioned approved of President Fernando Collor's reaction in filing a slander suit against his brother, 29 percent disapproved of the measure, and 13 percent did not know or did not answer.

The survey also asked about the best possible way to investigate Pedro Collor's claims. A total of 58 percent of those questioned said it was best to leave the investigation in the hands of the federal justice and federal police, 25 percent thought Congress must create a special CPI [Commission for Congressional Investigation] to investigate, and 11 percent did not know or did not answer. [numbers as heard]

The survey asked if the charges brought against the president would justify his impeachment. A total of 60 percent of those questioned said that so far the evidence is not sufficient to justify impeachment of the president, 24 percent thought that the charges justify an immediate impeachment process, and 16 percent did not know or did not answer.

A total of 63 percent of those questioned who knew about the president's speech and letter approved of what the president said about the charges, 23 percent disapproved, and 14 percent did not know or did not answer.

Pollsters asked those questioned if they would like the president to fulfill his mandate until 1994 or if they would like him to leave the government before that date. A total of 57 percent answered that President Collor should fulfill his term, 33 percent wanted the president to leave early, and 5 percent did not answer. [numbers as heard]

Most people supported President Collor's decision to take the matter to the courts.

[Begin Alexandre Garcia recording] The IBOPE survey shows that most people trust in and want democratic institutions preserved. They trust the courts. Almost 60 percent of those questioned said that the president behaved properly when he reacted by suing his brother and that the matter must be resolved by the police and the courts. Most people also want to preserve the Presidency because nearly 60 percent of those questioned said there is not enough evidence to justify an impeachment of the president, who must fulfill his term and who did well in explaining the issue to the country through a letter and a television speech. What is most important, over 70 percent of those questioned said they are following developments, which shows their democratic maturity and participation in national affairs. [end recording]

VP, Businessmen Give Support

PY2905170692 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 29 May 92

[Text] Vice President Itamar Franco expressed his unconditional support for President Collor vis-a-vis the charge that he is involved in shady deals with Paulo Cesar Farias.

During a ceremony at Jaburu Palace to inaugurate the Environmental Education Center [Nucleo de Educacao Ambiental], Itamar Franco said that the current problems will be resolved within democratic normalcy. The vice president recalled that crises pass, but democracy remains.

Businessmen have also expressed their solidarity with the president.

During his morning coffee at Planalto Palace, President Collor received a letter from Senator Albano Franco, president of the National Confederation of Industries. The letter, which was also signed by presidents of industry federations, supports the measures taken to investigate the charges leveled by Pedro Collor.

Governors Express Support

PY3005023692 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2300 GMT 29 May 92

[Text] President Fernando Collor received the support of 22 governors during a ceremony at the Planalto Palace today. During the ceremony the federal government freed up more than 500 billion cruzeiros for financing state social programs in education and basic sanitation. Minas Governor Helio Garcia spoke on behalf of the governors present, praising government's economic policies that shy away from the easy solutions for quick results to fight inflation. Garcia expressed support for the fiscal adjustment program and added that the country is ready to face the crisis with democracy.

[Begin Garcia recording] Democratic institutions have proven to be strong and capable of resolving everyday problems within the law. [end recording]

President Collor said that the economy is beginning to stabilize but the economy still needs the fiscal adjustment package to be approved by congress. He asked for everyone's support so that the country can overcome the difficult period.

[Begin Collor recording] Now when we have so many problems to face, when we are attacked by so many unfair situations, we can only persevere, persevere, persevere. [end recording]

At the end of the meeting governors spoke about Pedro Collor de Mello's charges against businessman Paulo Cesar Farias. They said that it was most important that the investigations be calm and conducted in a calm manner, and if anyone is found guilty that he be punished according to the law.

Peru

Opposition Demands Dialogue With Fujimori

PA2905174392 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1606 GMT 29 May 92

[Text] Lima, 29 May (NOTIMEX)—The Peruvian opposition is demanding a direct dialogue "at the highest level" with President Alberto Fujimori's emergency government to effect the country's return to democracy, according to a statement published in Lima on 29 May.

Twelve groups from various sectors (right wing, center, left) represented in the dissolved Congress urged Fujimori's regime to initiate on 8 June a "free, sovereign, and unlimited" dialogue with proclaimed "Constitutional President" Maximo San Roman.

In a two-page document, the parties formally propose holding elections for a constituent congress on 8 November, when municipal and regional elections are scheduled to take place.

The opposition's statement came hours before the 29 May arrival in Lima of the third OAS special mission, which will promote an agreement between the government and the political parties.

The opposition groups demanded that the dialogue include topics such as the scope of the so-called "Democratic Constituent Congress'" mandate, its duration, and its membership.

They also demanded guarantees of an electoral process and the renewal of the National Election Board, along with its procedures, election date, and installation.

The opposition expressed concern about "certain conditions" described by the head of state that will be imposed on the new constituent congress, the elections for which will be subject to a new electoral law. The were also concerned about a political party law established by the executive branch.

Fujimori warned that if the elected congress ever attempted to change the emergency government's amendments to the 1979 Constitution, he would again convoke another legislative branch.

"The dialogue must be carried out within a framework of respect for the freedom of the people and that of the political parties, while eliminating measures that obstruct or restrict the rights of legislators, political leaders, and activists in general," the statement said.

The parties proposed the creation of a conciliation commission composed of representatives from both sides that would be in charge of seeking solutions to the substantive difficulties and disagreements that may emerge from the dialogue.

The opposition's statement was sent to Uruguayan Foreign Minister Hector Gros Espiell, who will preside over the special OAS mission, by opposition leader Maximo San Roman, who was proclaimed constitutional president by the dissolved Congress.

It mentioned that the dialogue falls within the framework of the national and international pledge to return to constitutional and democratic law within five months, which President Fujimori made at the OAS assembly in Nassau, Bahamas on 18 May.

In two successive resolutions, the one adopted in Washington on 13 April and the Nassau resolution, the OAS agreed to extend bridges of dialogue between the Fujimori government and the opposition.

Chamber President Comments Before Session

PA3105192892 Lima Frecuencia 2 Satelite Television in Spanish 1400 GMT 31 May 92

[Report from the Civic Center of San Miguel Municipality—live]

[Text] Good morning. We are broadcasting from the Civic Center of San Miguel Municipality where a closing session of the Chamber of Deputies will be held. The Senate will simultaneously hold a similar session at the Crillon Hotel. There are many deputies here, but apparently there is not a quorum, which is necessary to begin the session. Dr. Roberto Ramirez del Villar, president of the Chamber of Deputies, is in the area.

We are speaking with Dr. Jorge del Castillo, representative of the American Popular Revolutionary Alliance [APRA], at this special session of the Chamber of Deputies.

[Unidentified reporter] Good morning, Deputy del Castillo.

[Del Castillo] Good morning, what would you like to know?

[Reporter] What can we expect from this session?

[Del Castillo] I understand the spokesmen of the political groups have agreed to approve various motions, and a law will probably be approved. That is important, because this de facto government has issued a measure to punish what they call usurpation of government actions.

If the Chamber of Deputies approves a law—and it will probably be the law on political parties—allegedly we would be committing a violation. Although it could not really lead to any serious action, it would unmask the dictatorship's true intentions.

The de facto government's measure was originally issued for application against Mr. San Roman, but it has not been implemented. The officials decided against that, but they threatened the congressmen. Therefore, it is an opportunity to see what will happen.

[Reporter] Do you think it is a good idea in light of the current situation in the country, the fact that the OAS has just concluded a mission here, and that we are on the verge of the constituent congress?

[Del Castillo] I think so, because an electoral process is not enough for the constituent congress to operate. We need to know the conditions under which it will operate. It should operate freely, because if the law remains in effect, and the constituent congress wants to make a decision that the government disagrees with, then suddenly—under the provisions of that law—the government can raise charges against the members of the constituent congress.

Therefore, I believe the government should abolish its own measures restricting freedom of expression. For example, in the antiterrorist law, the government has an article—Article 7—specifying that if you speak too much on the issue of terrorism, you could actually be brought before the courts for that crime. The issue of missing persons is no longer considered a crime. I believe those things are extremely grave, and the government—in a show of goodwill—should abolish those legal measures. In that manner it could help create an atmosphere of freedom that will allow the parties and the people to participate in an electoral process.

As for APRA, I would like to say that so long as our secretary general is the victim of political persecution, our secretary of organizations under arbitrary arrest, and our leaders threatened by the government's paramilitary groups, then APRA must be very cautious about what is happening.

[Reporter] Thank you, deputy, for your comments. The session has not yet begun, even though it had been convoked for 1000 [1500 GMT]. Nonetheless, our team remains here in this auditorium with a capacity of 135 persons to continue reporting.

APRA Leaders Denounce Government Harassment

PA3005031392 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 30 May 92

[Text] The American Popular Revolutionary Alliance [APRA] announced on 29 May that its leaders and militants, beginning with its Secretary General Alan Garcia Perez, are allegedly being persecuted and harassed. At a news conference, the APRA leaders, led by Deputy Secretary General Mercedes Cabanillas, said they will file their complaints before the appropriate authorities so that the situation goes on record. Former lawmakers Mercedes Cabanillas, Jorge del Castillo, and Armando Villanueva del Campo, and two APRA leaders from Villa El Salvador's 78th sector levied the charges. Showing photographs of Garcia with Villa El Salvador's leaders and militants, 78th sector President Manuel Arroyo reported that Alan Garcia appeared at the sector committee meeting. Meanwhile, Cabanillas held the current government responsible for the raid on Villa El Salvador's headquarters and for harassment against former President Garcia.

[Begin Cabinillas recording] We must point out, along with this charge, that the government is harassing a party that has a democratic and pacifist commitment and history, instead of providing adequate security to the people, which is what the people are demanding by fighting with the appropriate weapons. [end recording]

Garcia Should Abandon Country

PA0106035992 Lima America Television Network in Spanish 0338 GMT 1 Jun 92

[Text] The following is last minute news: The Executive Committee of the American Popular Revolutionary Alliance, APRA, on 31 May decided that its secretary general, former President Alan Garcia, should abandon the country for his own safety. That is what is stated by the document issued by the APRA Executive Committee. Alan Garcia will be leaving the country.

Colombia Grants Garcia Asylum

PA0106174192 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1700 GMT 1 Jun 92

[Text] Former Peruvian President Alan Garcia has just requested political asylum at the Colombian Embassy in Lima. Garcia has been in hiding since Fujimori staged the coup in Peru, when the Congress—of which Garcia was a member—was dissolved. Colombian Foreign Ministry sources said asylum will be granted and Alan Garcia will travel to Colombia within the next few hours. Garcia will be provided with protection and will have the diplomatic status of refugee.

As you may recall, former President Alan Garcia had said while in hiding that he feared for his life after the Fujimori coup. He has been holding conversations throughout the morning of 1 June with President Gaviria, who told Garcia

he guarantees his safe entry to Colombia under strict security measures to protect his life.

Interview With OAS Mission Chief Gros Espiell

PA3005223292 Lima Radio Programas del Peru Network in Spanish 1400 GMT 30 May 92

[Interview with Uruguayan Foreign Minister Hector Gros Espiell, head of the OAS commission visiting Peru, by Arturo Salazar, former director of LA PRENSA; Humberto Jara, chief editor of EXPRESO; Francisco Miro, deputy director of EL COMERCIO and unidentified moderator at the Radio Programas studio in Lima—live]

[Text] [Moderator] We are now discussing Peru's atypical political situation and how the OAS sees it. Our guest is Uruguayan Foreign Minister Dr. Hector Gros Espiell. Here is Arturo Salazar.

[Salazar] Good morning, Mr. Foreign Minister.

[Gros] Good morning.

[Salazar] You have spoken to us about the framework of your mission. I want to ask you about something else. I would like to know about your experiences, as an Uruguayan, regarding two matters: The Tupamaros and the Bordaberry coup d'etat in 1973. The two events have similar characteristics, not in time, but in essence and, perhaps, in their structures. Why was it possible to defeat the Tupamaros movement? Did it have anything to do with the liberties of the military? Did it have anything to do with the Bordaberry coup?

[Gros] The Tupamaros was a deadly, absurd, and ridiculous movement that defeated Uruguay's democracy, which was excessively confident and arrogant. There was no justification for the Tupamaros movement in 1965, 1966, 1967, 1968, and 1969. Uruguay was then a functional democracy. It had defects, like all democracies do, but defects can be corrected in a free democratic system. The Tupamaros movement radicalized the positions and that led to a confrontation between them and the military and to 11 sad years of unconstitutional governments.

Without the Tupamaros movement, there never would have been a military government for 11 years.

When the Bordaberry coup occurred in 1973, the Tupamaros movement was already defeated. That is important and sometimes....

[Salazar, interrupting] Was the coup necessary to defeat the Tupamaros movement?

[Gros] The movement had already been militarily defeated by the constitutional government of President Pacheco Areco, which had an authoritarian manner, but was still a constitutional government, a government that produced the defeat of the Tupamaros movement.

The start of antidemocratic radicalization had already emerged, however.

[Salazar] You mean that democracy was more efficient than a coupist government, than a military structure, in fighting a subversive group?

[Gros] It is evident that in Uruguay, and I am not establishing an analogy—something I have no right to do—that was the case.

[Moderator] The next question is from Humberto Jara, chief editor of the daily EXPRESO.

[Jara] Good morning, Mr. Foreign Minister.

[Gros] Good morning.

[Jara] It is being said the framework of the Bahamas commitment has already been established and it cannot be changed because it is a commitment made under specific positions and circumstances. My question has to do with the position of the other side. The political parties are also beginning to make demands for a specific calendar of events. They have been doing that for the past two or three days.

If there is an argumentative position, it is going to block the process. If that position gains force among the political parties, what role would the OAS play?

[Gros] I will answer your question from a special point of view. I think that from the day we first arrived until now, when the Nassau meeting ended, the government's position has evolved positively. The evolution has been evident. The political party's evolution has been plausible. They have been making painful, difficult, and traumatic adjustments. They have been moving toward an unavoidable realism to hold fruitful negotiations and talks.

On 29 May, I was asked by telephone from Santiago about the approaches to the dialogue. I cannot interfere in Peruvian domestic affairs. The OAS must not intervene. It must promote the dialogue and make it possible. It is not me or the OAS who can say: This point here should go there. It is a Peruvian problem. What is important is to realize that without a dialogue, without negotiations, there will be no solutions. The return to the Constitution and democracy is of fundamental importance, not only for Peru, but also for America; not only for 22 million Peruvians, but also for 300 million Latin Americans. The way in which it is done is a Peruvian affair.

[Jara] I agree. I am talking about attitudes, and negotiators can play an important role. Some leaders are saying they have nothing to discuss with a person who has broken constitutional order. That makes the lack of realism obvious because the die has been cast. If that situation persists, can your commission play a role?

[Gros] The role would be simply to explain rationally, objectively, and in an unbiased fashion that without realism based on principles, without adapting to the current situation, and without putting radicalism—which leads nowhere—aside, there is no way out. Knowledge of the Uruguayan experience is important. We

never would have removed the military government if we did not engage in negotiations in which each side had something to yield.

[Moderator] Let us continue....

[Gros, interrupting] I was saying that what is important is to secure democracy and the rule of the Constitution. Dialogue is the means that leads to it. Intransigence leads to a deterioration of the situation.

[Jara] Dr. Gros Espiell, we know that your mission is not for mediation, but one that encourages and promotes a dialogue. It is important to make that clear so no one believes it is mediation, like the Pope or some other organization. Now that it has been said, I want to ask you: What elements of pressure could your mission or the OAS as a whole eventually implement in case there is no compliance with the Bahamas agreement? Is there a way to implement radical OAS measures?

[Gros] I do not want to talk about radicalization, pressure, or sanctions. It is evident, though, that if the Bahamas resolutions and commitments are not complied with, we would be back to the beginning, with all the consequences that would derive from that.

[Jara] Meanwhile, your mission would be to continue watching events in Peru. That means you will be visiting Peru for quite some time.

[Gros] I hope it will be for a short time only and that soon we will have a full democracy and the Constitution fully in effect in Peru.

[Moderator] Francisco Miro.

[Miro] There is talk about reforms to the electoral code and about government plans to pass a political parties law. Representatives of the political parties believe the political parties law must be enacted by the constituent assembly. In Montevideo, you told me there is a will to talk. Have you noticed, upon returning to Lima, that the will to hold a dialogue is stronger and that there is the possibility of the two sides getting together in the next few days to find a democratic way out for the country?

[Gros] I think so. There are, in all countries and at all times, intransigent positions, however, what is of interest are the major guidelines and tendencies. I think there is a tendency for dialogues and negotiations to secure the big objective.

[Miro] What diplomatic strategy will you and OAS Secretary General Baena Soares use to promote a dialogue? Is there a strategy, an intermediary dialogue, a technique?

[Gros] I will summarize that strategy with two words: firmness and flexibility.

[Miro] Does that mean that support for democratic alternatives will be increased? At this point, the Peruvian people are speaking out through the media. There is a tendency in favor of a return to democracy: 88 percent of the people, according to the polls. But there is also a tendency for reforms. So we have a clear-cut situation: The people want reforms and democracy. What is the alternative, in addition to the constituent assembly alternative? The people want a direct democracy and participation of the people in drafting and revoking laws. That is a fact. That has been made obvious technically. What are the solutions?

[Gros] I think we have to clarify something. The OAS cannot speak on these issues. It is a problem for Peru's constituent power, constituent in the sense that it functions based on the public law doctrine. Personally, direct participation of the people in government institutions does not scare me. On the contrary, I have promoted it in my country. I believe the direct participation of the people through political institutions represents a form of civic progress. That is something on which the OAS cannot state a position.

[Moderator] Thank you. We presented Dr. Gros Espiell, who has to leave now because he has to be at the Foreign Ministry building in a few minutes for an important meeting with Peruvian Foreign Minister Oscar de la Puente. At 1100 he will be meeting with President Alberto Fujimori. He is very busy and we understand he has to leave. We want to thank Dr. Gros Espiell for participating in this program.

OAS Delegation Holds Lima News Conference

PA3105021292 Lima Radio Programas del Peru Network in Spanish 0023 GMT 31 May 92

[News conference by Hector Gros Espiell, Uruguayan foreign minister and head of the OAS delegation visiting Peru, and OAS Secretary General Joao Baena Soares at the La Paz Room of the Cesar Miraflores Hotel in Lima with an unidentified moderator and reporters after meeting with the government and political opposition—live; broadcast in progress]

[Text] [Gros] ...that is what we did on the morning of 30 May. According to what President Fujimori told us, he will address the nation on 31 May to summon the people to elections. That is all I know. I do not have information about the rest of his address or any other details. You will learn about it before I do because I will be traveling at the time. On the afternoon of 30 May, we basically talked about the dialogue as a necessary part of the process to restore constitutionality and democracy and the guarantees for all political leaders to allow them to act without any fear for their safety.

That issue was proposed by the political parties during a luncheon on 30 May. It was later also proposed by San Roman. It is obvious the OAS is promoting a dialogue without being a part of it. The OAS is not a mediator or anything like that. It is promoting a dialogue among the government authorities of the country and all political sectors. It is a necessary part of the political electoral process.

[Moderator] I will now go down my list. I urge photographers to take a break. Reporter number one.

[Reporter] [passage indistinct]

[Gros] I do not know when we will be able to return. We will return in due time. The foreign ministers ad hoc meeting is still open. The mission is still in force; it is still present. We will act whenever necessary. I reaffirm that dialogue is an indispensable element of the process and is recognized as such in the two resolutions of the foreign ministers ad hoc meeting.

[Moderator] Number two.

[Reporter] [Passage indistinct]

[Gros] I will clarify. No one can make any demands from the OAS. The OAS knows what it must do and knows what must be done within the framework of the two resolutions that were the subject of a vote at the ad hoc meeting.

[Moderator] The reporter from (SI) Magazine.

[Reporter] [Passage indistinct]?

[Gros] I repeat what I said at the beginning: On the morning of 30 May we did not talk about the dialogue. We talked about calling the constituent congress, human rights, supervision of the elections, the role of the OAS in these matters, and the actions of the international committee on [words indistinct]. On the evening of 30 May, we will discuss the dialogue with three ministers.

[Moderator] Number four.

[Reporter] [Passage indistinct]?

[Gros] The two of us, the secretary general and I.

[Moderator] Number five.

[Reporter] [Passage indistinct]?

[Gros] That issue was not discussed on 30 May, and there is no mention of it in the two OAS resolutions. It was not discussed. We will discuss it in due time.

[Moderator] Number six.

[Reporter] [Passage indistinct]

[Gros] We did not discuss that, and I know nothing and cannot know what the president will say on 31 May.

[Moderator] Go ahead.

[Reporter] [Passage indistinct]

[Gros] I would ask the OAS secretary general to answer that question because he is the most qualified to do so.

[Soares] [Words indistinct] the OAS will offer its assistance by observing the process of [words indistinct]. You know that we have some experience in supervising elections [words indistinct] experts that we could bring to Peru to work in the organization of [words indistinct] in the second resolution of the foreign ministers meeting [words indistinct] the first one of them is that there must be a formal government request. Second, it must be considered of the [words indistinct].

It will examine the matter in light of the development of the political situation in Peru and especially with the timely compliance with the commitment acquired with [words indistinct] we must make first contacts to later draft a plan accompanied by a budget that contemplates the presence of OAS observers and the elections [passage indistinct].

We are also willing to offer any kind of advice on electoral training to those who will have a role in the execution of the electoral process. We already have ideas regarding the observers who will be present throughout the country. It will involve a numerous group of people who will be trained to supervise the process, not only because of their participation in similar processes in other countries, but the special training the OAS will provide.

[Moderator] One more question.

[Reporter] [Passage indistinct]?

[Gros] We will report to the foreign ministers ad hoc meeting.

[Moderator] Thank you very much.

[Reporter] [Passage indistinct]

[Gros] The foreign ministers meeting is open. The authority of that meeting is specified in the most recent resolution. That is, it is not only empowered to receive information, but also to make (?decisions).

San Roman, Fujimori May Discuss Congress

PA3105195992 Paris AFP in Spanish 1838 GMT 31 May 92

[Text] Lima, 31 May (AFP)—On 31 May, "legal" President Maximo San Roman disclosed the possibility of holding a dialogue with "real" President Alberto Fujimori "to establish the regulations of the Democratic Constituent Congress (CCD)" before that assembly is called within the next few hours.

"The dialogue must take place, because Uruguayan Foreign Minister Hector Gros Espiell has formally told the de facto government, through the ministers of foreign affairs, economy, and justice, that it is necessary" before "the CCD is called," the designated president told AFP.

Maximo San Roman, first vice president until the palace coup of 5 April, was later appointed president of the Republic by the dissolved Congress.

Although on 30 May the leaders of all political parties voiced their satisfaction with the elimination of the

plebiscite, they have serious reservations about the CCD because it is "not the result of a previous dialogue with President Fujimori."

Given Fujimori's silence over "an essential dialogue between the parties," the political parties stated that talks are necessary to avoid the possible "vetoes" against certain candidates, establish the powers of the CCD, and determine the appropriate date for its election.

These concerns, which were expressed to the OAS mission, were conveyed to Ministers Oscar de la Puente (Foreign Affairs), Carlos Bolona (economy), and Fernando Vega (justice). The members of the OAS mission met with the aforementioned ministers on the evening of 30 May before ending their fourth mission to Lima.

If the democratization process bogs down because of the government's refusal to call a dialogue, it will be reported to the ad hoc meeting of OAS foreign ministers, who are authorized to issue resolutions, Gros Espiell explained. Gros Espiell left before dawn on 31 May for Buenos Aires.

In the agenda that the political parties had recently proposed to return to constitutionality, it was determined that the dialogue between the government and the opposition should begin on 8 June, and elections for the constituent assembly should be held on 8 November.

"The resolutions approved by the OAS on the constitutional disruption in Peru clearly establish the need for a dialogue between the authorities (Fujimori) and the political forces represented in the legislative branch (...) to establish conditions and commitments between the parties to restore democratic constitutional order," the document approved by San Roman stated.

After emphasizing Fujimori's opposition to the dialogue, the document warns that "the de facto government's attitude jeopardizes Peru's image and future in the international community."

As the OAS mission has said, dialogue and negotiations are indispensable to resolving the Peruvian crisis, and each party must yield on some points, the "legal" president explained.

"We are willing to talk at any time, because that is what the international organization wants," stressed San Roman, who seemed optimistic about prospects for a dialogue.

Fujimori Said To Exclude Plebiscite Before CCD

PA3005235592 Lima Radio Programas del Peru Network in Spanish 2310 GMT 30 May 92

[Text] President Alberto Fujimori has reportedly ruled out calling a plebiscite prior to the establishment of the Democratic Constituent Congress [CCD] during a meeting at the Government Palace with the OAS ad hoc mission visiting Lima.

That possibility was suggested by Uruguayan Foreign Minister Hector Gros Espiell to representatives of political forces during a luncheon meeting. Former President Fernando Belaunde Terry said:

[Begin recording] [Belaunde] We have been assured that the plebiscite will not be held.

[Unidentified reporter] What about the dialogue?

[Belaunde] It is said that there should be a dialogue, but it has not been determined how and when.

[Reporter] What about the law on political parties?

[Belaunde] We did not discuss that very much.

[Reporter] Is there a date for the CCD election?

[Belaunde] We do not know yet; it seems it will be revealed soon.

[Reporter] What about the delay in the plebiscite?

[Belaunde] The foreign minister [pauses] ...they will of course make the announcements, not us. He told us there will not be a plebiscite based on his conversation during the morning of 30 May.

[Reporter] What would be the next step?

[Belaunde] The next step must take place within a few hours when the party delegates should reach a conclusion regarding the dialogue. [end recording]

De la Puente Interviewed About Plebiscite

PA0106035192 Lima Radio Programas del Peru Network in Spanish 0140 GMT 1 Jun 92

[Telephone interview with Oscar de la Puente, president of the Council of Ministers, by Denis Vargas Marin, both in Lima; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Vargas] We are talking with Oscar de la Puente, president of the Council of Ministers. Dr. De la Puente, good evening.

[De la Puente] Good evening, Mr. Vargas. How are you?

[Vargas] I am pleased to greet you.

[De la Puente] Me too.

[Vargas] Although today is Sunday, we would like to touch on some points of national importance. For instance, after Uruguayan Foreign Minister Gros Espiell's remarks, it is not yet clear whether there will be a plebiscite before the Democratic Constituent Congress [CCD], which we understand will be convened by the president of the Republic in a few hours. We would like you to clarify that for our listeners.

[De la Puente] First of all, Mr. Vargas, President Alberto Fujimori will address the nation on 1 June, not 31 May, announcing, as has been reported already, the convening

of the CCD. Gros Espiell is the head of the delegation. Following the foreign ministers meeting on Peru, he is right in saying no plebiscite will be held on 5 July. What Gros or any other representative of an international organization could not report is what should or should not be done in Peru regarding a process. Such a statement would make him appear as a judge or mediator, a role he would never play here—and he has admitted that—because Washington Resolution 1-92, ratified by Bahamas Resolution 2-92, explicitly states that the fundamental purpose of the delegation headed by Gros is to stimulate dialogue. That is what Paragraph 6 of Resolution 1-92 indicates: Stimulate a dialogue between the government, the political forces, and the other sectors of the population. As a result of President Fujimori's commitment at the OAS meeting, the CCD will be convened. Nevertheless, to clear all doubts, but without trying to read the president's mind, the country is the only sovereign state that will determine the procedure, the electoral system, and the convocation in Peru. In other words, no one can tell us what to do. With due respect, we can say only that two fundamental principles—self-determination and nonintervention—are the only things that overrule the text of the agreements. Gros Espiell has said and reiterated that very clearly. As you know, he is an exceptional politician.

[Vargas] Right.

[De la Puente] Neither the OAS, nor any other organization can intervene to tell Peru how to carry out its electoral process.

[Vargas] Right.

[De la Puente] The OAS delegation's role ends with a recommendation and the stimulus for a dialogue. We will establish the rest. I am telling you that to clarify any doubts. There will be no plebiscite on 5 July, but that does not preclude the right to solicit the people's opinion during a consultation before or after the CCD.

[Vargas] To clarify, Dr. De la Puente, the Nassau agreement is respected. There will be no plebiscite on 5 July, but it could be held on 30 July, 15 August, or 30 August.

[De la Puente] The Nassau meeting did not consider the plebiscite at all. The agreement, already historically called the Bahamas Commitment and presented by the president, is that he will convene a CCD and stimulate dialogue with all political forces in the country and the people. You cannot ask 22 million people to sit down around a table. The people must be consulted about the amendments. A National Dialogue For Peace and Development office has been opened and standards have been made public. There is also the other procedural item in the form of popular consultation in the form of a plebiscite or referendum.

[Vargas] Right. I was beside you at the OAS forum in Nassau. In his speech, President Fujimori did not mention a plebiscite or a referendum. In the text of the speech, however, a referendum was indeed mentioned.

[De la Puente] The first written version of the speech mentioned a plebiscite for 5 July. An analysis was made by the Peruvian delegation. The official text of the speech is the one delivered by the president at the forum. That text is then transcribed and the final text is the one delivered. The Bahamas Commitment, may I repeat, included convening the CCD in about five months, according to the president, and stimulating the dialogue. So there is no commitment preventing the people from conducting popular consultation.

[Vargas] So, can there be a referendum or plebiscite after 5 July?

[De la Puente] It could be held.

[Vargas] And before the CCD?

[De la Puente] I mean before or after the CCD, no doubt about that.

[Vargas] Fantastic. Another question, which is fundamental. When will the five months begin? From 18 May, when President Fujimori attended the Nassau meeting?

[De la Puente] I understand the exact date is included in the president's address to the nation on 1 June. I will let the president provide that information in his message that is so important for Peru. With due respect to you, I would not like to give any report ahead of time.

[Vargas] Very well, Dr. De la Puente. You always stay within the framework of respect. So the five months probably could begin on 1 June.

[De la Puente] Let us wait for the message.

[Vargas] One last question: What will be the characteristics of the dialogue? Will it be only between the government and the opposition or will it be a dialogue with a broad base of participants?

[De la Puente] The text of Resolution 1-92 clearly stipulates that the dialogue is open, not only to all political forces, but to the people. An outline was made of what you described as a broad base in convening the National Dialogue for Peace and Development, which has a long list of probable participants. The list was announced, but not limited to the number of participants and the mechanics. In other words, this dialogue will have a broader base than a direct dialogue. The people have as much right and their opinions are just as important as the dialogue between the political party representatives with whom I will have the pleasure of opening this dialogue as president of the Council of Ministers.

[Vargas] Thank you for your kindness, Dr. De la Puente.

[De la Puente] Thanks to you, too. I would like to end this conversation. Let us talk again after the president's speech.

[Vargas] Very well. Thanks again.

Shining Path Unit Attacks Lima Police Station

PA3105040692 Paris AFP in Spanish 0304 GMT 31 May 92

[Text] Lima, 30 May (AFP)—Five people—a policeman and four subversives—died on the evening of 30 May when a car loaded with explosives detonated during a gun battle that occurred after a failed attack by a Shining Path commando unit against a Lima police station, the police reported.

The target of the attack was the Villa Police Station in the Lima District of Chorrillos, 10 km south of downtown Lima, which was also the target of a failed Shining Path attack on 29 May.

Shining Path members approached the Villa Police Station in a vehicle loaded with explosives, which was going to be used as a car bomb. They fired at the station and hurled dynamite explosives at it without causing any damage.

Witnesses said that when the subversives failed to smash the car bomb against the police station, they fled the site in the same vehicle and were chased by police patrols into shantytowns in the area.

The terrorist commando unit ended up in a one-way street and crashed against a wall. The vehicle exploded and two of its occupants were burned.

A gun battle ensued between the two surviving Shining Path members, leaving one policemen and the two terrorists dead.

In 12 years of "armed struggle," Shining Path has caused 25,000 deaths, mainly poor peasants in southeastern Peru. Since April, the group has attacked police installations in Lima continuously and has managed to destroy three stations and the Technical Police (detectives) personnel office.

Police, Army Operate Against Rebels in Huaycan

PA2905172592 Lima Panamericana Television Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 29 May 92

[Text] Police operations continue near Huaycan Settlement in Ate Vitarte, where rebel groups were detected near the 16-km mark of the Central Highway. Army troops joined the operations.

On 28 May police detected the presence of a rebel group near the Huaycan Settlement in Ate Vitarte and immediately sent patrol groups to the area. The operation began shortly before 1100 and lasted for over an hour. An Air Police helicopter joined the operation and overflew the area between the 13- and 20-km markers of the Central Highway, concentrating on the 16-km highway marker.

Members of the Tactical Actions Subunit [Sub-unidad de acciones tacticas—SUAT] joined the patrol and combed a large area. There were reports that the rebels were very well armed.

While the police continued the operations, there was an unusual display of Army troops in Huaycan on the occasion of a ceremony that took place in Educational Center No. 12-45. General Luis Perez (Documet), general commander of the Army Special Forces Division, presided over the ceremony on behalf of President Fujimori. The government donated a large number of items to the school, including 10 sewing machines.

Venezuela

President Talks About Country's Condition

PA3105002192 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 30 May 92

[News conference by President Carlos Andres Perez at Miraflores Palace, moderated by Luis Carvajal, press director of the Presidency, with foreign reporters—live or recorded]

[Text] [Carvajal] Jose Mujanda of EFE.

[Mujanda] Good morning, Mr. President. The domestic and foreign public are very concerned about the escalation of protests against your economic policy and the possibility of civil war. Leading politicians have considered this possibility. Lieutenant Raul Alvarez Bracamonte's remarks that there are weapons in the hands of the people seem to indicate that this possibility cannot be ignored. Do you think a national agreement by all the sectors to stabilize the Venezuelan democracy is still possible? I would like to ask another question. What will be your stand regarding the Ibero-American presidents' summit to be held in Seville and what is the status of the Spain-Venezuela general cooperation treaty?

[Perez] In Venezuela, there is no possibility of a civil war or a coup d'etat. These categorical affirmations might seem to be the wish of the chief of state rather than a national reality. The reporters who reside in the country know that the protests are not staged by workers irritated by the difficult situation we are undoubtedly facing in this country—a situation that prevails in the country, but which is not as serious as reported, considering the Latin American panorama—but by small groups that bear no importance other than to damage the national patrimony.

Venezuelan papers have not reported that 1,000, 2,000, 5,000, or 10,000 people demonstrated anywhere. It has only been reported that one bus or vehicle was set on fire. This is the consequence of such incidents. These are acts of vandalism, which some people attempt to disguise as students' protests, which they are not. It has already been explained that, after the extremist subversives were defeated in Venezuela, there remained—and this has

been happening in every Venezuelan Government—a number of old guerrilla leaders, who stayed out of the country's political life when the then current parties, such as the Communist Party and the Leftist Movement, was replaced by democracy. This is what is happening in Venezuela. Of course, these stragglers of the extremist subversives always find support in small groups of youths who back their protests. Consequently, the reported situation does not exist in the country. Although we cannot deny the influence of the 4 February events on the increase of power of these groups, it would be unthinkable to say that there is danger of a civilian war in Venezuela. We have also observed protests at government offices, but not at manufacturing plants or by the country's general productive sectors.

For the first time we are facing a special occasion. In Venezuela, the hiring of public sector employees was not put into practice because it was not allowed by the career service legislation. This also came about because of modification to the labor law. I do not want to belittle the crisis currently taking place in Venezuela. We are indeed going through a crisis, just like most countries in Latin America. I do want to place the crisis in its proper context. Most of all, the international press tends not to echo the same context. I say echo, so you believe that I am not accusing you of spreading reports that cannot be proven. You just repeat what appears in the Venezuelan press. As you are all well aware, the Venezuelan press is absolutely free and we tend to report the news but do not corroborate its veracity.

Regarding the other questions by the EFE correspondent on the agreement with Spain. This is a magnificent agreement and one which induced my trip to Spain. The government of President Felipe Gonzalez adopted a policy that takes advantage of the Spanish boom to contribute to development in Latin America by extending credit to the area. The government rapidly analyzed, with the Spanish Government, those areas where this credit with a 3 percent interest rate could be more useful to Venezuela. Unfortunately, as happens in most democracies, Congress tends to delay more than necessary. This credit has been held up at Congress too long. I hope, or we all hope, that during the first two weeks of June we will be able to report on the approval of this $800 million Spanish loan. You asked several questions, what was the other one?

[Mujanda] It deals with the Seville Ibero-American Summit. What is Venezuela's position regarding this summit?

[Perez] Regarding what?

[Mujanda] Regarding the Seville Ibero-American Summit.

[Perez] I believe this is a very significant occasion. We view this as an opportunity to meet once again. The first summit took place in Mexico. What we could describe as a central summit is about to take place in Spain. All the Latin American heads of state will meet once again. This event would seem to be mere protocol, as well as ritualistic, and that nothing positive will result for Venezuela. I want to emphasize that I believe the contrary. Of course, we cannot expect miracles. After so many years and centuries of separation and misunderstanding, it is difficult to expect an instant integration relationship. That is the way the great historical movements tend to come about. I believe that after 500 years, we are on the threshold of reembarking on a great understanding that will benefit all Spanish-speaking countries.

I, therefore, give great importance to this meeting scheduled to be held in July.

[Carvajal] We now have a question from Alfonso Navarro from NOTIMEX.

[Perez] There is an important topic I have not talked about. This topic was mentioned by a Spanish journalist when he talked about the people's concerns about the possibility of a civil war or great disorders in the country. This has been much discussed in the media. I believe it is a result of the commotion we Venezuelans experienced on 4 February. It has awaken the spirit of responsibility in many sectors of the country, among other reasons, because something no one expected occurred. Out of the feud between Democratic Action and the Social Christian Party, the country's two largest parties, emerged an understanding. Private business sectors that had remained distant from the country's disputes decided to get involved and propose an important national agreement.

This is very important. We are not saying political parties should take down their flags or should suspend their controversies, which are indispensable and unavoidable in a democratic system. We, Venezuelans, must realize that in this transitional stage in Latin America, in this transitional stage in Venezuela, we must all reach an agreement to fulfill the country's fundamental objectives. Under no circumstances should these things separate us. On the contrary, these things should unite us. The great economic reforms that are taking place in the country require us to reach a national agreement. The transition that is taking place in Venezuela, forces all our countrymen to try to supervise and coordinate this transition, which of course, we could not expect to be very peaceful. I want to say with great optimism that the foundations for a national agreement are being identified. Of course, pessimists or those who believe a national agreement is catastrophic to their interests, tend to criticize, ridicule, and discredit.

There is a word now in vogue in the vocabulary of our countries: cliques. In religious terms to baptize something as a clique is tantamount to it being excommunicated. This is a big pharisaism, a big hypocrisy, and a big falsehood. It happens that those who actually deserve criticism are the groups or Sanhedrins who are trying to arrogate the representation of those who have not given them permission.

There are groups assuming the coordination of society or larger groups in all organized societies. This happens in every country and has always happened. There is no doubt that large parties, which are supported by a majority of the country, have a major responsibility in the face of what is happening in Venezuela. These parties should help establish the bases for a national agreement. That is the advisable thing to do and the only way to reach national agreements.

[Carvajal] Alfonso Navarro.

[Navarro] Good morning, Mr. President. Two questions. One about national policy and the other about your international plan. It seems that with the arrest of the former guerrilla leaders Douglas Bravo and Francisco Prada, the language used in the 1960's was used when referring to subversion. It has been said that the government will not hesitate to use the police or National Guard to adopt a firm stand toward these demonstrations.

I would like to ask you....[pauses] However, on the other hand, Lt. Alvarez Bracamonte is still at large and there are still such demonstrations. The defense minister himself pointed out that the arrest of these two men and four others will not stop the wave of demonstrations.

How will this affect Venezuela's international commitments and mainly the integration policy you have promoted since reaching power, especially within the Group of Three and the other Latin American countries. Thank you.

[Perez] Considering the circumstances, the Venezuelan Government has been very patient. Other than the military officers involved in the coup, there have been practically no arrests. We did not even suppress constitutional guarantees in order to carry out arrests. This has been so, first, because we believe sincerely that there is no situation forcing the government to adopt extreme measures. Notice that we did not even suspend constitutional guarantees in that case. Second, because we must be flexible as much as we can. That has been my government's policy.

To Venezuelans—and certainly to you, based on the information you have—the names of those arrested are not new. They participated in that feverish and stupid guerrilla action of the 1960's when—thrilled by the triumph of Fidel Castro in Cuba—it was believed certain political paradises could be attained through violent means. That was a failure.

As said earlier, most of these movements were incorporated into our daily life. These personalities, people, or guerrillas continued their guerrilla activities. The government has gathered enough evidence to conclude that all these movements, bus burnings, vehicle burnings, and attempts to organize violent uprisings were led by these groups, which have maintained their subversive actions from the very start.

There is a time when we can no longer tolerate this situation; when the country demands that we act to preserve the citizens' tranquillity and calm. That is precisely what we are doing without causing alarm and blowing this out of proportion by adopting the appropriate measures.

We are not trying to raise any alarm here. We are not taking cover behind communism, that old scarecrow used in Latin America, which has fortunately disappeared as a pretext for justifying abuses and dictatorships. There is no doubt that extremism and radicalism is an attitude that cannot be tolerated by any responsible national organization. What do people say when a bus is set on fire when our transportation system is on the verge of collapse? What do taxi owners say when one of their taxis are burned? What does society say when all of a sudden a street is blocked due to the tear gas used to dissolve a small group—not because these people decided to meet in this specific street but, because of the actions they are conducting in the area.

Regarding the case of the lieutenant who escaped with some weapons, the incident is simply not significant and sooner or later, authorities will apprehend this military fugitive. Authorities will also recover the small amount of weapons in his power, which does not constitute any threat to the citizen's peace. Of course, regarding the defense minister's statements, I would ask the reporter to read the text of the statements and not only the headlines.

In reference to international repercussions: There has been none. Venezuela is firmly implementing an international policy with two basic goals: One, to reaffirm democracy in Latin America and share in the great world decisions to create the new international order we all hope to attain; and two, to transform Latin America's economy and integrate the countries of our region, a drive led by both Mexico and Venezuela.

The Group of Three is an expression of our countries' irrevocable intention to end a phase of seclusion and economic hostilities among our countries. This phase has not allowed us to use our immense wealth to its fullest potential. The Group of Three is a reality and we are working to attain our integration and to establish a free zone between Venezuela, Colombia, and Mexico. We also want to include the Central American isthmus and the Caribbean in this agreement. These are the big projects we are working on. Furthermore, constantly and without fanfare, top government officials from our countries are meeting to discuss matters related to energy, tourism, culture, the environment, etc. Also, prior to the World Earth Summit in Brazil, President Salinas, President Gaviria, and myself, will meet here in Caracas to continue our integrationist efforts.

[Moderator] Harold Olmos of Associated Press.

[Olmos] Two questions Mr. President. It seems paradoxical for these guerrilla tendencies or these former guerrilla commanders of the 1960's to reappear, especially

when communism has disappeared and the centers that sustained this ideology appear to be waning. How would you explain this paradox, Mr. President? Also, do you think it is dangerous for PDVSA [Venezuelan Petroleum, Inc.] to reduce or postpone its investments precisely when that is precisely what is required?

[Perez] I believe that what is happening is not paradoxical. The guerrilla and subversive actions do not have a future in our continent, despite the devilish persistence of the Shining Path in Peru. Societies have always had stragglers. As I explained at the beginning, the Venezuelan Government's intelligence information indicates that at no time, since the guerrillas groups were controlled in 1966, have they ceased to exist. They have emerged now because the climate was favorable. We are amid a crisis and this has brought about a situation of uncertainty. In these people's feverish reasoning—and surely they must still be using the Marxist-Leninist thoughts to do so—they have reached the conclusion that the climate is ripe to launch a violent rebellion.

That is what is going on. There is no mystery, but I would say it is madness. It is a foolish thing to do, and it is a major crime against the country.

As for the PDVSA problem, I can say that PDVSA has made huge investments, several hundreds of billions of bolivars or billions of dollars. Of course, PDVSA's development is closely linked to the company's revenues and to world oil prices. No company in the world would dare make investments when the price of the product it plans to manufacture reaches dangerously low market levels.

Let us take the case of aluminum. We have not resumed the discussion of our aluminum production plans. We have not resumed the discussion of the three projects that were drafted with large international companies, among them the one with Alcoa. Have these projects disappeared? No. In view of the low aluminum prices in the world, which are just now beginning to increase because of low Russian aluminum production, these companies decided to wait until the situation was back to normal to continue making investments. That is the same thing we are doing in the oil sector.

In addition, we are facing a very significant situation, which the foreign media should emphasize. The seriousness of the Venezuelan economic process, the adjustments that have been made in our economy, have again attracted the interest of foreign investment in our country. We currently have a great possibility of reaching understandings with huge international corporations so they can contribute to our oil exploitation process.

We all know that Venezuelan laws and national spirit led me to make one of the most significant decisions of the century during my previous term as president, which was to nationalize our oil production. In that regard, we do not plan to change our previous decision, at least not in our times. The oil sector will continue to be managed by the Venezuelan state.

We must understand two things: First, we are no longer the innocent Venezuelans who could be easily manipulated by the oil transnationals. Today we know the business and we can handle it while dealing with the great transnationals without being afraid of losing. On the contrary, we are certain of winning. This led us to form associations abroad. The (Abeba) Oil Company, which is our oil industry in Europe, and Citgo, which is our oil industry in the United States, are evidence of that. We are now able to engage in that type of association in Venezuela. The oil nationalization law, which we approved in 1975 during my previous government, contains an article that allows—by means of a congressional permit—those types of associations.

The international president of the (Abeba) Oil Company has just visited us. He has made an extraordinary proposal to explore and exploit Venezuelan extra heavy oil, which is the country's greatest asset. That is no longer just an idea; it is a concrete proposal. Why will the (Abeba) Oil Company come to Venezuela when—according to one of the questions that was asked—we are threatened with a civil war? No. Foreign capital knows that Venezuela is a safe place to invest. That is why we have just received this offer from the (Abeba) Oil Company, which is currently being studied and will be submitted to the national Congress at the proper time.

In addition, (Esaquitem), the huge French oil company, is also interested. We have also received other offers on the same matter from other companies following the visit paid to us two months ago by Mr. (Leblanc), the president of (Esaquitem). We have also received a similar offer from the Amoco Oil Company in the United States. That means we will have foreign capital working to guarantee Venezuela's oil future.

[Carvajal] Oscar Madrid, representative of the Italian news agency.

[Madrid] Good morning, Mr. President. The 23d anniversary of the founding of the Andean Group was commemorated days ago. In the past three years, the subregion's presidents have promoted this integration mechanism. Today, however, there is a different situation: You broke diplomatic relations with Peru's Fujimori, Ecuadoran President Rodrigo Borja has virtually concluded his term, Bolivian President Paz Zamora is looking toward the Mercosur [Common Market of the South], your neighbor Cesar Gaviria is facing domestic problems, and you, after the shameful incident of 4 February, are evidently facing a resurrection of subversion. From that perspective, how do you view Andean integration?

Also, if I may, could you give us more background information on this Christian Democratic-Social Democratic alliance that you have promoted for the upcoming 15 years in Venezuela. I would also like to know whether you would be willing to invite Arturo Uslar Pietri and Rafael Caldera to participate in this great national agreement?

[Perez] Well, I am glad the apocalyptic tone at the beginning of your question was eased at the end. First, the Andean Pact is—even in the current circumstances—one of the great accomplishments of present times. We should be proud of that. Personally, I have the satisfaction that the Andean Pact's resurrection is related directly to my return to power and to the approval of my request—on the day after my installation on 3 February 1989—to hold Andean presidential summits every six months. In other words, we the presidents would meet directly every six months in one of the zone's five countries to assume the historic leadership of the Andean Pact. Thanks to that agreement, we have a free trade area in Latin America today.

I want the young journalist—who is representing [unidentified speaker mumbles: Italian agency] the Italian media—and everyone in attendance here to know that this zigzagging is nothing unusual in the peoples' political life. So far we know of no country that has matured and achieved its lofty goals along a straight and narrow line. There are always setbacks and zigzags. That is the case with the Andean Pact now.

However, the things we have attained so far are irreversible. There is no turning back. This is an important aspect: The things we are doing in Latin America today, our governments' achievements, are definitive. They have already produced inexorable changes in the economic, social, and political realities of our nations.

As for Peru, there was a major setback; a painful, unfortunate, and perverse setback. You know well the position maintained by the Venezuelan Government in defense of democracy in Latin America. We broke relations with Peru because...[pauses] well, I have repeatedly explained the reasons. However, we have not disrupted the Andean Pact.

Our firm positions have already prompted Peru to make the first rectification of its dictatorial regime. It repealed a decree issued days after the destruction of the democratic system that invoked protectionist arguments [salvaguardas] to suspend agreements with the four other Andean Pact countries. That was repealed, and Peru is again part of the regional free trade system.

Nothing will stop the Andean Pact, despite the fact that we failed to stop the dictatorial process in Peru. Moreover, we are making no concessions. We are doing business among ourselves and benefiting each other. That is the reality of the Andean Pact.

All countries, Bolivia, Colombia, Venezuela, Peru, and Ecuador, all of them have gained from the Andean Pact. We have realized that the Andean Pact is not just an integrationist ideal conceived in a somewhat emotional fashion, but that it is an important economic factor, that we need large markets, and that we have to expand our capabilities to build economies capable of surviving in this new world of big economic blocs.

Thus, this is among the great achievements of Latin America. Andean countries must feel proud for being the first successful integration system established in our region. Now, Bolivia is not turning its eyes to Mercosur, neither is Ecuador. We are all turning our eyes to each other. In fact, had that perverse and vile action not taken place in Peru, the Andean Pact would have immediately started talks with Mercosur to find ways to start integrating these two groups. Our efforts in this direction will continue. There is only a delay.

The reporter who posed the last question must recall that we are not thinking only in terms of the Andean Pact, but of Latin American integration. The Andean Pact is only a stop along the way, a step in our goal to attain Latin American integration. The Group of Three is one such step and the others....[pauses] Mercosur is another.

In other words, we decided to follow a rather unorthodox integration process: First, we considered the possibilities of a group of countries and then proceeded to achieve the total integration of Latin America. We are doing this.

As for the Christian Democratic-Social Christian alliance, no, we are here....[pauses] there is a natural alliance. The dogmatic barriers that existed between world political parties are gradually disappearing. The disappearance of the communist dogma has even brought flexibility to the process of reaching a consensus among political groups. Christian Democrats and Social Christians in Venezuela know that the common and sole interest is the existence of a democratic process in the country. Christian Democrats, Social Christians, Socialists, and Social Christians know it is indispensable to free political parties from big corruption charges and ethical problems our organizations are involved in. They know we must unite to make important contributions to recover the significance of political parties in our countries and consolidate democracy.

We, Venezuelans, do not forget that had the parties failed to unite on 23 January 1958 and reach a pact, such as the one we are trying to establish now, we would not have been able to destroy dictatorships in our country. This is the great historical lesson and this is the objective. Of course, we are not expecting an understanding in two or three years, but in the long term. Why? Because it is not a matter of party alliances and mergers, no, it is a matter of reaching an agreement on the general guidelines that should direct the main actions of all democratic organizations in Venezuela.

[Carvajal] Alberto Arevalo of REUTER.

[Arevalo] Good morning, Mr. President. The demonstrations we witnessed in Venezuela in the past few days occurred not only in Caracas, but also in countryside cities. Was the scope of the subversive plan denounced by the government so broad that demonstrations could be organized in other cities? Also, do you believe the protests will end after the arrest of these former guerrillas? Do you believe the statement by Lt. Bracamonte, which was published in the press on 30 May, is a

provocation? At any rate, what will the government do regarding such statements? Thank you.

[Perez] First, I have often insisted...[pauses] of course, the simplicity of language leads to the use of terms that generalize matters. I do not think there is a subversive plot; the Venezuelan Government does not think we are facing the threat of the destabilization of the democratic system. There is a subversive action on the part of small groups that are provoking uprisings. Their actions would not be covered by even the most sectarian of media if vehicles, trailers, and buses were not torched or national resources were not destroyed. No one would even mention such actions because they mean nothing. That is the reality in our country. Thus, we cannot talk about actions that threaten a civil war.

Of course, these actions have disturbed and caused uncertainty and restlessness. This is especially so because they are part of a strategy to keep alive the memory of the 4 February events. These events were indeed serious, but they are now anecdotal. They forever closed the door to military coups in our country. Thus, there is no danger. This is also true in the interior of the country where people work and live peacefully.

We could not have experienced a growth in production and a decrease in unemployment if Venezuela was still suffering the negative effects of these actions. What has happened in Venezuela must be reported. This can be observed in the statistics issued by the Central Bank and the information provided by international organizations, such as the IMF, the World Bank, and the Inter-American Development Bank. Venezuela had the highest growth rate in the world last year. Our gross national product grew approximately 10 percent. This year, of course, we will not have this growth because the 4 February events will probably impact on our economy. I am sure, however, that Venezuela will grow more than 5 percent and that its growth will be, if not the highest, one of the highest in Latin America. It would be impossible to attain this growth if the country were experiencing the alleged circumstances mentioned by REUTERS.

The case of the lieutenant does not merit consideration or discussion. This is an attitude held by a military wrongdoer, which will not be remembered for long. We will not even be talking about him in a few months. He will not be mentioned in Venezuelan history or even in criminal records.

[Moderator] (Esteban Engel) of DPA.

[(Engel)] Good morning, Mr. President. I have two questions. First, writer Arturo Uslar Pietri, who is internationally recognized as the main moral authority in this country, mentioned the Cubanization of Venezuelan policy when he talked about the entry of the Mafia, who oppose the Cuban Revolution, to form a security corps to ensure your safety. These charges are to be added to others that report the existence of a sort of praetorian guard to be in charge of the president's security. I would like to know your opinion and if these assertions are groundless.

The second question: I would like to know the specific charges against the guerrilla leaders who were recently arrested. Thank you.

[Perez] Let us allow Uslar to get out of the tight spot and explain his statements to the Cubans. I do not want to intervene by adding fuel to the fire or by getting him out of the fire in which he got himself in. The Venezuelan reality is well-known. It is not true—this is the problem with how events are, many times, interpreted by the media—that Uslar's charges were made in those terms.

In regard to how I am and how I live, this is easy to establish. I invite you to come with me to the Bolivar Plaza alone. I dare you to do this. [laughs] This is my reality. I do not....[pauses] Of course, the Venezuelan president, as well as all the other presidents, has guards. It is well-known—and all the reporters in Venezuela know this—that I do not always follow these formal rules. I mingle with the people and talk to them. I want to stress that first, the murdering of important people is not a tradition in Venezuela and this is a blessing. Second, that democratic regimes in Venezuela have a basic respect for the people.

I, thus, call on reporters not to repeat this type of false information that gives an erroneous image of our country. You know this because you walk on our streets. We do not need mercenaries or foreigners here. We, of course, welcome foreigners, especially those who want to come to work here, because we are not chauvinists. We are currently organizing a selective immigration program.

It is unfortunate that false and scandalous information descends on a country when it is amid a crisis. I have to say we do not have any of this [foreign mercenaries] here. Uslar is having a hard time explaining his statements now. He recently stated he had not said what he said and that his statements had another meaning. This, however, has to be cleared up by Uslar. I will not intervene in this manner. I think that is what the DPA question referred to. Is there anything else?

[(Engel)] [Question indistinct]?

Perez] Forgive me, sir, but I would say: My Goodness, if some armed groups in your country rebelled and were preparing to imprison or kill Mr. Kohl, would you ask what charges would be filed against those gentlemen?

[Engel] [Question indistinct]

[Perez] The one involved in the military rebellion. What?

[Engel] [Question indistinct]

[Perez] Oh, forgive me. It was my mistake. No, these are investigations being made by the country's police organizations. They have gathered strong evidence that an organization led by these gentlemen is causing disorder, including burning buses, trucks, and automobiles. An investigation is under way, and the men are being held under preventive arrest before being taken to the courts. Weapons have also been confiscated from them. Possession of those weapons constitutes another crime.

[Carvajal] Question from Estrella Gutierrez from the INTERPRESS SERVICE news agency.

[Perez] Estrella.

[Gutierrez] Hi, Mr. President. You have coined a phrase to define the events that unfolded after 4 February. You said the military coup attempt was seized upon by a number of political and economic groups that had lost their power in Venezuela to stage what you called a civilian coup. Four months after the 4 February incidents, when instability seems to be a very stable thing in Venezuela, can you say the civilian coup has been successful? Do you believe you can make the necessary changes during your remaining time in government? That is one question. The other one is: Beginning on 4 June, a number of presidents will be visiting the country. You will also meet with President Bush on 14 June. In addition, you will make your first trip abroad. I would like to know if these visits are just a mere coincidence resulting from the fact that the earth summit is being held in Rio de Janeiro and therefore many presidents will be making stopovers in Venezuela, or are you just trying to return to the international scene? Are you willing to personally lead your country's foreign policy by traveling and holding international meetings here?

[Perez] As a lady, you are always thinking about being flirtatious, and you think I am just engaged in some type of international flirtation. [laughs]

Regarding the first comments made by the INTERPRESS SERVICE journalist regarding instability in the country, I have this to say: Let us take at look at the thermometer that can best read the situation as the people see it. Some newspaper said on 30 May that international reserves decreased by so much. These are important indicators. In February and March, there was a decrease of $700 million in our international reserves, but it so happens that in April and May there has been a recovery of over $100 million in our international reserves. That shows there is an important stabilization process taking place. Interest rates were over 40 percent a few weeks ago, and the zero coupon bond [bono zero cupon] was quoted at an interest rate of over 40 percent. Interest rates are reaching the 35-percent mark today. The latest zero coupon bond quotations show this. These are readings from a thermometer that never fails, because no one is as easily frightened as those who handle or manipulate the economy. That is evidence of the country's stability.

Undoubtedly there are groups in Venezuela who continue to be confused and who continue to carry out their destabilization plans, not realizing that Venezuela has progressively emerged from its previous situation. The figures I have just given you can clearly prove it.

As for your other question, I am honored to receive other presidents in Venezuela. I do not have to make efforts of any kind. The presidents who come to the region believe it is important to stop here and talk to me, especially because Venezuela has its place in international politics, and that is important.

I have also received a number of telegrams from presidents who want to meet with me in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. That is important, and it shows they recognize me as a mediator in Latin America's political life.

I also want to say that it is not true that I have disappeared from the scene. We have had exacting problems in the country, and they have demanded my attention, an attention I have never failed to give and that I have intensified in recent days. I have not gone abroad because I have not had the opportunity to do so. In 1990 I did not leave the country every month. Three or four months went by before I traveled abroad. The same thing happened in 1991. My trips abroad are determined by the importance and significance of the international trip. There were campaigns here and elsewhere against my international trips. That is the opposition's right. The journalists who have accompanied me know what I travel for and how my trips develop. There is no tourism and nothing of that sort.

I am pleased that a group of presidents will stop in Venezuela. I will have the opportunity to meet with them here and in Rio de Janeiro, where we will remain for only a few hours. Presidents only have to be there for a day. Why must we travel there? Because this is undoubtedly the most important meeting ever held by mankind. It is a meeting that will assemble the largest number of countries, and the subject will be the future of humanity; it will be the earth summit.

That is why we will attend this summit. Moreover, it will be held in a neighboring country. Our countries have an important interest in that summit, first, because we possess one of the richest ecological heritages of humanity's future; and second, because issues that are vital for the country's future, including the very future of fossil fuels, such as oil, will be discussed.

You have heard about a visit by President Bush. A meeting with President Bush has not been scheduled. If I do not see President Bush in Venezuela, I will see him in Rio. We are good friends and always have important issues to discuss regarding our bilateral and multilateral relations. Those are my answers to the reporter's questions.

[Unidentified reporter] [Question indistinct]?

[Perez] What?

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]?

[Perez] Yes, when I referred to....[pauses] a priest who is very beloved and respected in Venezuela, Father Ugalde said the most important thing. He said the serious thing here was not the military coup attempt, which had been defeated at 0130, but that it tried to become a civilian coup.

This has dissipated. It was limited to demanding the president's resignation and reduction of his term. These outrages, which were discussed in those days, continue to be discussed in an attempt to maintain the tune [sonsonete]. They failed to realize first, that those demands never had a chance of progressing and second, that in Venezuela things operate thanks to the dynamism and determination of Venezuelans to work and reach a permanent stabilization process.

[Carvajal] Jorge Calmet of AFP.

[Calmet] Mr. President, good morning. I would like to ask a question about Venezuela's fiscal deficit. In late 1991, you said you planned to spend $4 billion on social projects. This has been reduced to less than $800 million, I understand. Will this fiscal deficit affect your social plan?

[Perez] This is a problem that has been much debated. People can always argue that the statements of government or independent spokesmen are contradictory, because the fiscal deficit depends on each person's perception. If we adopted the price of petroleum at $19 per barrel established in our 1992 budget, if we consider the expenditures established in that budget, and the expenditures of PDVSA, the fiscal deficit would undoubtedly be a monstrosity—a very large deficit the Venezuelan economy would not be able to handle.

Thus, the fiscal deficit hinges on the very decisions adopted by the government to maintain its level, reduce it, or eliminate it. What has the Venezuelan Government done? First, why is there a fiscal deficit? Because the price of oil was first set at $19 per barrel, later reduced to $16.5 per barrel, and later reduced again to $15 per barrel. In fact, the price of petroleum has been under $15 per barrel and was even $12 per barrel at a given time. This situation certainly threatened to accumulate a fiscal deficit.

The government has adopted measures since January. We reduced the budget by more than 60 billion bolivares, reduced PDVSA's investments by more than 80 billion bolivares, and adopted other measures to eliminate or reduce the fiscal deficit to manageable figures. Thus, according to government estimates made in this responsible fashion and accompanied by decisions that have already been made, our 1992 fiscal deficit, excluding petroleum, will stand at 2 percent. If we include petroleum, the fiscal deficit will not surpass 5 percent, which is also a completely manageable figure. This is a reality that will be fully demonstrated during Congress debates.

Meanwhile, we have managed to increase certain revenue figures to maintain the growth of the country's economy. We are not putting our trust in oil, although there has been a recovery in the price of oil. I repeat, we are not putting our trust on that increase in oil prices.

We will definitely have a tax reform to enable us to face the fiscal deficit problem because the partial questions being asked and my partial answers, could give the impression that I am implying that we are living in the best of worlds. No, that is not the idea I wish to convey. Venezuela, as all of Latin America, is experiencing a crisis, a serious crisis, a difficult crisis.

The upsetting situations that have taken place in Venezuelan society have been of an unexpected nature. This somewhat explains the uncertainties that have emerged since the unsuccessful military coup attempt on 4 February. That is the reality. Given the fact that we have left behind a subsidized and heavily protected country, the situation we are dealing with, the situation we are now facing, could not be less difficult and less serious than what we have been experiencing lately. That is the way we should look at the situation. We should not look at this country as a model or an earthly paradise in Latin America, no. This is serious. The same thing is going on in the other countries of the region. Fortunately, the Venezuelan people have had essential resources to overcome certain situations and we have been able to protect the low-income population with important measures.

In addition, this situation did not begin now. I have always talked about a historical, structural crisis. This crisis is not the result of our economic reforms. This crisis is older. How can we explain the 27 February 1989 incidents? My government had only been in power for 15 days. We had not even begun implementing the economic package, when a social crisis broke out in the Caracas metropolitan area. This crisis was the product of a pressure cooker which blew up. That was the situation. When we take a look at statistics, we see that the real wages of the Venezuelan people seriously declined during the 1980's, however, the decline in real wages stopped in 1990. From 1990 to the present, real wages have stopped declining, but the salary we now have is the one we had 10 years ago. That is the situation Venezuela is going through and that is the situation we have had to face with determination and courage knowing the suffering and disorders it has caused in our country.

That is the idea I want to convey to you in this news conference.

[Carvajal] Carlos Roman, from Progamar Television, Colombia.

[Roman] I have two questions regarding the relations between Colombia and Venezuela. There is talk about a possible electric interconnection between Venezuela and Colombia. As you know, Santa Fe de Bogota and other Colombian cities have been facing problems because of a scarcity of power being generated in Colombia. That was my first question. The second question has to do with a

proposal made by the Colombian Government to extradite some 2,096 Colombian prisoners being held in Venezuelan jails. I would like to know about your position regarding the possibility that these Colombian citizens could be extradited to their country.

[Perez] One of the great plans being drafted by the Group of Three is to promote an electric interconnection in the entire region, including the Central American isthmus. We have already begun the first interconnection feasibility studies and our three countries are negotiating a credit with the Inter-American Development Bank, but meanwhile, other interconnection programs are already being implemented. In the border region with Colombia, interconnection programs have already been implemented in the Amparo region, Tachira State. There is also an electric interconnection program implemented in Zulia State. We are, however, currently negotiating a larger electric interconnection program with Colombia, bearing in mind the growth of electric energy production in Venezuela. We no longer have plans in our hands. We are already implementing electric interconnection projects between Colombia and Venezuela.

The programs backed by the Group of Three are the ones that are still at the prefeasibility phase.

The other question does not concern the government or the executive branch. Extradition is determined by our criminal law and by international laws. Of course, extraditions require certain procedures and, up to now, the Venezuelan Government has not received official information that this extradition is going to be requested.

[Moderator] (Ernesto Krip) of the German [word indistinct] agency.

[(Krip)] Mr. President, getting somewhat away from domestic topics, when you started your mandate you anticipated that many European countries would help you develop the country. Your government is currently at the midpoint of its term. Have your expectations been met? Thank you.

[Perez] Yes, of course. I believe we attained our objectives but have to continue working. One of my first actions—although I was fully aware it would confront obstacles—was to get international foreign investment advisers to aid the president of the Republic. I managed to get advisory services from the great captains of international management and we have already held several meetings in the country. This has been truly important.

The first step was to get prominent international businessmen to become interested in Venezuela. We had to hear their viewpoint on how they thought we should carry out our development. In a way, we did this to get them committed to our country's development. We have, fortunately, attained our objective and foreign investment in Venezuela is evident. Foreign business groups, U.S. business groups—excuse me, I used the generalized term foreign—as well as European and Japanese business groups, are investing many millions of dollars in our country.

[Moderator] To end this news conference, Magdalena Morales of United Press International.

[Morales] Good morning. How does your government establish the difference between the regime of Fidel Castro in Cuba and the one of Alberto Fujimori in Peru? You have relations with the first, but have suspended them with the latter. On this same topic: At the OAS Assembly, President Fujimori promised to make democratic changes, including the organization of a Constituent Congress. Would these actions help to renew relations between Venezuela and Peru? What is your opinion on the reforms Fujimori is going to implement.

[Perez] It is not too difficult to establish the reasons for the difference in our positions regarding the Cuban and Peruvian Governments.

The Cuban Government is not a democratic government. It is a dictatorial government. The Cuban Government, however, did not promise America, the OAS, or any of our countries to accept the rules of a representative democracy. The Cuban Government is a product of the Cold War and its position stabilized in this manner.

The government of Mr. Fujimori is a government that deceived and betrayed the trust of the Latin American continent. It resulted from free and generalized elections and it promised to respect the outcome of this election. Suddenly and in a most infamous and treacherous manner, this government has overruled the people's mandate and dissolved the Congress and the judicial branch. Democracy is a state of law. Democracy is not the president of the Republic, who was elected by the people. Democracy is the president of the Republic, the Congress, the judicial branch, and respect for all the norms in the Constitution. This is the big difference. Fujimori betrayed us and has endangered the developing democratic process in Latin America. This is the big difference. As for Cuba, we hope the Cubans will find an acceptable solution to their situation some day. However, it is not the same case. Our position regarding Peru is to defend the commitments we have signed. Yes sir, we, with the presidents of other countries in the region, signed at the OAS that we accepted and would defend the democratic process. Mr. Fujimori has not kept his commitment. Castro did not make this commitment. We, of course, wish he would do so, but it is not the same case. Regarding the changes Fujimori offered at the OAS Assembly, I would like to say that whoever read his speech in the Bahamas in detail must have noted the following: First, the speech is a frontal attack to all the bases of democracy. Second, he offers a constituent congress that is to be formed according to what he determines a constituent congress should be. Somebody asked Fujimori: What if the constituent congress changes

the norms you gave it? He responded: We will form another constituent congress.

There you have it. Those are the differences. We do not want to corner Fujimori's government, but we want democracy to be restored in Peru. We would praise the creation of an electoral board that our countries can trust and the election of a constituent assembly that is fully empowered to restore democracy. We would accept whatever decision the Peruvian people make in the exercise of their own self-determination.

As we have already finished, I would like to draw some conclusions regarding matters I believe may interest you.

One of them is the situation in our country. I am talking about the possibility of instability you have been talking about. Our currency is fully stabilized as you have seen. Even though we had to make some special contributions from our international reserves to stabilize our currency in February and March, it has finally reached a point of equilibrium and the Central Bank is spending less in the exchange market than the amount budgeted. In the last two months, our international reserves have increased by more than $100 million. We have made progress in a series of fields and in a series of projects, which became our responsibility when we assumed power. We have a flexible and competitive exchange rate. We have restored guarantees for freedom of trade in Venezuela, which had been suspended for decades. We have a system of free prices and we have created modern institutions, such as the Superintendency for the Protection and Encouragement of Free Competition, as well as the antidumping law. We have opened up the overall foreign investment regimen and we have been able to attract foreign investments. We updated the tax system used by corporations to encourage foreign investment. This system has received the support and the acceptance of both national and international investors.

We have deregulated interest rates in the credit market and a decrease in interest rates is already being observed. They had reached 40 percent due to the economic situation.

We successfully refinanced our foreign debt by taking advantage of the Brady Plan and our annual foreign debt installments were reduced by over 50 percent.

We lifted controls on foreign trade and we have lowered tariffs by an average of 7.5 percent. We signed a free trade agreement within the Andean Pact and the trade between Colombia and Venezuela is simply impressive because, in addition to our free trade mechanisms, we have a common external tariff. By July 1992, we should be implementing the free trade zone with Bolivia, Peru, and Ecuador.

In addition, we have not forgotten our social areas because of the serious crisis that emerged once the economic adjustments programs were implemented and once indirect subsidies and protectionist practices were suspended. We have the food bonus programs which benefits 3 million Venezuelan children. We have child care centers to help Venezuelan mothers in the entire country and we also have a food-health program for pregnant women and for children under six. Social programs have not been cut. Someone asked a question about this. Congress is approving an additional credit for 57 billion bolivars. It is part of the resources we have obtained from our privatizations and they are aimed at solving our social problems.

The privatization program is another important program. We have already privatized the National Port Institute, the National Telephone Company of Venezuela, VIASA Airlines, the Republica and Italo-Venezolano Banks, as well as several hotels and sugar refineries. Our privatization programs have been important. Private investments have now replaced what used to be called government investments, such as the aluminum, petrochemical, iron, and paper industries.

We are now engaged in the decentralization process. Mayors and state governors are now being elected. Ports and airports are now under the control of our different states. We are in the process of transferring our health and sports services to the different states.

Our second elections for governor and mayors in Venezuela will be held in December 1992.

As you can see, our achievements are very important. Financial and tax reform bills are already in Congress. Financial reforms will open up the country to international banks and tax reforms will make us less dependent on oil and will allow us to keep our deficit under control.

The bill creating the macroeconomic stabilization fund is currently in Congress. It will allow us to use oil as a valve that can operate both ways to protect ourselves from the abrupt changes in oil prices. It will also help us use our oil resources when the price of our first export product is high.

Gentlemen, thank you very much, I hope you are satisfied with my statements.

Students Continue Protests Throughout Country

PA3005041792 Paris AFP in Spanish 0045 GMT 30 May 92

[Text] Caracas, 29 May (AFP)—Student disturbances continued on 29 May in Caracas, in the neighboring cities of Maracay and Valencia, in central-western Barquisimeto, and in Marida in the Andean region, where the violence was halted by a heavy downpour that fell at sunset, according to AFP reports.

In Caracas, the disturbances were focused at the Pedro Emilio Coll school, where the students were dispersed by the Metropolitan Police with the support of patrol helicopters.

In Maracay, 60 km east of Caracas, students blocked the road to the Caribbean coast protesting the possible closing of their school.

In Valencia, 80 km east of Caracas, there were strong clashes between the police force and the university students. In Barquisimento, 350 km southwest, students and teachers protested separately.

The teachers warned that over 130,000 students could lose the school year in Lara State—of which Barquisimento is the capital—if the breach of their contracts continues.

In Merida, 600 km southwest, there were peaceful student demonstrations in schools located in the Lagunilla and Ejido sectors. The Los Andes University students staged serious disturbances when they set fire to a truck on Tulio Febres Corderos Avenue, near the Engineering faculty.

On 28 May, the students had protested the arrest in Caracas of six guerrillas, among them the legendary Douglas Bravo. Bravo is accused of disrupting order by organizing a wave of protests, particularly with the radical leftists groups Red Flag [Bandera Roja] and Third Option [Tercer Camino].

The press was told that the protests were also due to the presence in Merida of General Pedro Rangel Rojas, Armed Forces general commander.

In the afternoon strong rains dispersed the demonstrators.

Ochoa Says Protests Unjustified

PA3005140192 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 30 May 92

[Report by Giovanni Daboin]

[Text] Defense Minister General Fernando Ochoa Antich has said the reasons given by those organizing disturbances in the country do not justify the acts of violence that have taken place.

The defense minister made that statement to reporters at the Miraflores Palace in reference to the arrests of former guerrillas Douglas Bravo, Eustoquio Contreras, and Franciso Prada, who appear to be the leaders of the public disturbances.

[Begin Ochoa recording] At one time, student fares were the reasons for the disturbances. The government provided a very adequate solution to that problem. The reasons given now are somewhat unjustified. For instance, the Fermin Toro Secondary Level School students claim they are protesting because the principal and deputy principal have not been appointed. It is true the former principal and deputy principal retired, but there are two persons performing those duties now, and we are awaiting the appointments. That is the reason they are now giving for the disturbances. One cannot really consider that to be justification for burning buses. I think the people who are aware of these things must reject them. [end recording]

The official also believed the presence of infiltrators in demonstrations by secondary level and university students will diminish considerably now that this subversive group has been repressed. In addition, he dismissed comments by Manuel Escurti of the Movement Toward Socialism, who said the guerrillas' arrest is part of a strategy to discredit the protests. Referring to charges by Herminio Fuenmayor, former head of the Directorate of Military Intelligence, that Ochoa and his brother have political ambitions, the defense minister reaffirmed his loyalty to the president, the Armed Forces, and his comrades who have fallen in disgrace. He said the people know that his conduct is in line with democracy. He again admitted there has been some infiltration by the left in the Bolivarian Revolutionary Movement, the dissident group within the Armed Forces that tried to stage a coup on 4 February, but said it poses no danger to military unity or the country. He also said subversion lacks sufficient strength to disrupt democratic order, because the authorities control the trouble spots. Commenting on civilian concern about the theft of weapons, the defense minister denied there is cause for alarm because the thefts have been very small.

Fugitive Says Stolen Weapons To Be Used Defensely

PA3005222192 Paris AFP in Spanish 1824 GMT 30 May 92

[Text] Caracas, 30 May (AFP)—Lieutenant Raul Alvarez Bracamonte, who stole military weapons from the largest garrison in Caracas on 1 March and is still at large, caused a commotion on 30 May by saying in a secret interview that these weapons "will be used when the people ask me for them."

Interviewed by EL GLOBO, a new Caracas morning newspaper, Alvarez, 28, member of the Bolivarian Movement 200, which includes five Army lieutenant colonels who perpetrated the foiled coup d'etat on 4 February, denied that the weapons have been used in recent bank robberies.

According to intelligence reports—and even confirmed by President Carlos Andres Perez—these bank robberies have been perpetrated by small guerrilla groups. Military sources said these groups might be three in number.

Alvarez said: "I think I must distribute the weapons when the people demand them for their defense and to protect themselves from the violence the government uses against the people. These weapons will be used against alleged mercenaries if they become active. According to press reports, most of these mercenaries are Cubans and former Nicaraguan contras, who would join President Perez' security agencies."

In his statements to foreign correspondents on 30 May, President Perez gave no importance to Alvarez' actions and anticipated his arrest.

Alvarez confessed to have cried when he saw coupist leader Hugo Chavez on television asking his comrades to surrender the weapons to avoid more bloodshed.

When explaining why he stole the weapons, Alvarez recalled the 27 February 1989 "Caracazo," which is the name given to the period of riots and looting that marked President Perez' second period in government. Alvarez said that, since then, "the Army has been playing a mistaken role of repression."

He asserted: "Weapons are used against the people. The Army's weapons have lost their true purpose, which is to defend our sovereignty,"

Alvarez criticized the Perez administration for not starting on "the road to change" as promised to guard against the political crisis triggered by the attempted coup. He added: "It would seem he requires stronger actions."

The officer said Commander Hugo Chavez "does not want violence, but, if the government continues its position, we will be forced to take up arms to enable the people to be heard."

He denied any ties with the ultraleftist rebel group Red Flag, as was implied by Defense Minister Fernando Ochoa Antich. Alvarez said that the opposite was true, as he has been in the counterinsurgency Hunters Battalion [Batallon de Cazadores] for three years and six months. He added: "I do not believe (Ochoa Antich) is a person of balance in the Armed Forces."

Alvarez denied any ties with the six former guerrillas of the 1960's, including the famous Douglas Bravo, who were arrested on 28 May on charges of organizing the street riots in Caracas and other cities in the country's interior.

Lieutenant Alvarez Bracamonte described himself as "a symbol of the resistance."

Mexican, Jamaican Embassies Evacuated

PA2905185192 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1756 GMT 29 May 92

[Text] Caracas, 29 May (NOTIMEX)—Authorities evacuated the building housing the Mexican and Jamaican Embassies in Caracas on 29 May in response to a bomb threat. According to diplomatic sources, they then proceeded with a vast police operation.

The evacuation was carried out without incident in the residential area of Los Palos Grandes, where the Centro Plaza Towers—which house the embassies—are located. It has not been determined whether it was a false alarm.

Several bomb threats have been reported recently in various public buildings in Caracas and in cities in the interior. Policemen detected a bomb in a building in Valencia, 160 km west of Caracas, earlier this week.